

Trust brings silver lining to grief

Losing a loved one is a tragedy for all close to that person, but a local charity is helping to ease the pain. Julie Kaio reports

A home-grown charity manned by a dedicated team of volunteers has helped ease the pain of a Puni mother grieving the loss of her beloved husband.

On February 23 last year, Debra Hawley lost the love of her life. Her husband and partner of 30 years, and the devoted father to his children, Jodi, Alex and Mikaela, died suddenly in the night.

Ross Hawley's heart simply stopped beating. Tragically, Debra woke to him taking his last breath. Alex, then 14, desperately tried to revive his dad, while Debra frantically dialled emergency services, but there was nothing they could do – Ross, 67, had gone.

On learning of the Hawley family's terrible loss, the Franklin Silver Lining Trust stepped in to help alleviate some of their grief.

The Franklin Silver Lining Trust provides time-out, family respite, grants special wishes and support families in the community facing a wide range of adversities, including losing a loved one.

Its gift to the Hawleys was to contribute to their journey to

FRANKLIN SILVER LINING TRUST

Tonga last year, to visit Ross' daughter Jodi, who runs a beach resort and whale watching tours on an island with her partner.

The holiday brought the Hawley siblings together to grieve. "It was a huge step forward in their recovery and for that I'm greatly indebted to the trust," Debra said. "It was amazing and we all felt quite honoured to have been nominated and to have been thought of during this very difficult time."

"To be honest, I have seen and heard the stories of other recipients, who I felt really needed it more than us. I felt very privileged and humbled. So to be nominated was incredible."

The trust also sent Debra on a women's retreat – an escape from her daily routine, which she said was just what the doctor ordered. "It was so nice to take time out for myself, with like-minded women, in a tranquil environment."

Debra said she was proud of how well Alex and Mikaela were



The Hawley children, Alex, Jodi and Mikaela, in Tonga following their father Ross' sudden death - the Franklin Silver Lining Trust helped fund the family's journey.

finding their way since losing their dad. "They are both doing remarkably well."

"The year could have turned to custard, but Ross was such a great dad – he had old school morals, values and inner-strength which he has imparted to them, enabling

them to adjust to our new circumstances."

Debra credits her strength to a tight group of friends, family and her Christian faith. She's also kept incredibly busy with the kids' activities and supporting them, whilst running her own

business. "We are all doing really well," she said, "and I know Ross would be very proud of us."

■ For more on the Franklin Silver Lining Trust, and to nominate someone for a special break, see franklinsilverliningtrust.co.nz

THECLA JOHNSTONE AND ASSOCIATES LTD CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

- Management Reporting
- Annual Accounts/Tax Returns
- Set up & Structure Advice
- GST/Payroll
- Xero, MYOB & Quickbooks accredited

Thecla: Mob - 027 249 9443 Micaela: Mob - 021 731 310
Sheryl: Mob - 027 581 3544 Office - 09 238 8925
Fax - 09 238 8525 Email - admin@theclajca.co.nz

Neighbourly 1,800 neighbourhoods across New Zealand are using Neighbourly

Join Neighbourly today and meet your neighbours

Can anyone recommend a great cleaner? Take care - flooding on Main Street! Street BBQ next week - all invited!

Join your neighbours now www.neighbourly.co.nz

ADVANCE TYRE & ALIGNMENT members of **ADVANTAGE** THE TYRE PROFESSIONALS

TYRES, PUNCTURES, ALIGNMENTS

189 Manukau Road Pukekohe
Ph 238-5171

CTM DIESEL SERVICES LTD

COF VEHICLE INSPECTIONS + WORKSHOP

SERVICES • REPAIRS • LUBES

Appointed by **NZ TRANSPORT AGENCY** WAKA KOTAHĪ

0800-COFB4U
Workshop - 09 237 1045
53 Crown Rd, Paerata 2676
www.ctmdiesel.co.nz

The RECLINER ROCKERS

Roots, rockabilly, blues but like you've never seen it before!

SATURDAY 14TH MAY.
TICKETS \$10 PURCHASED FROM THE BAR.

PUKEKOHE COSMOPOLITAN CLUB
78 Nelson St, Pukekohe, P 09 238 8404
www.pukekohecosmopolitanclub.co.nz

light of the world जग के प्रदीप

SATSANG BY ACHARYA VIKAS MASSEY

Pukekohe 20th April 7.15pm
PIA Event Centre, Ward St
Ps Naran Makan 021 102 8989

Auckland 22nd, 23rd, 25th April 7.00pm
Mt. Roskill Intermediate School Hall
Mt Roskill, Auckland
Ps Nikunj Macwan 0297 705046

Organised by
Auckland Mercy Gates | www.mercygates.co.nz

Waters Funerals "Professional Family Care"

All Cultures & Communities Welcome

FUNERAL DIRECTORS
PUKEKOHE
09 238 4794
81 Franklin Road
www.watersfunerals.co.nz