

# You help keep the faith

ANDREA AND DEREK HAD BEEN PLANNING A JOINT 40TH BIRTHDAY PARTY. THEIR BIRTHDAYS, ONLY A MONTH APART WERE GOING TO BE CELEBRATED TOGETHER, A FESTIVE MILESTONE SURROUNDED BY FRIENDS AND FAMILY. UNFORTUNATELY, ANDREA DIDN'T MAKE IT.

Andrea died at the age of 39, the same age her mother was when she passed away. She was just 14 years old when she lost her.

As her stepmother and a close part of her family, I got to see firsthand how she coped with having incurable breast cancer and the way it impacted her and her family's daily life.

Andrea found a lump in her breast while showering one morning. After a visit to the oncologist she was diagnosed with breast cancer in September 2014.

**The hardest part of her diagnosis was telling her children she had cancer. Andrea and Derek have seven children between the ages of 20 and 2. As a stay at home mum who also homeschooled her kids, they were her love and joy.**

**At the beginning, she would tell her little ones that medicine was going to make everything better, and that after an operation she would be OK again. But as the cancer got worse, telling the truth was almost unbearable.**



Andrea's vocation was really caring for, teaching and raising her family. She was also on the Board of Trustees for one of her children's primary schools and ran an afterschool care program for up to 70 children from 2001 – 2006.

As well as raising her family, Andrea's faith was very strong and she was involved with a church support group that helped her greatly when she got sick.

Then, there was the help from Sweet Louise. Being a member was very positive for Andrea. She loved going to the member meetings and being part of another support group. The vouchers she received were fantastic too. In fact, you can still find them in Andrea's handbag to this day. Andrea rarely spent money on herself, so having the vouchers to use on things like haircuts and getting her nails done was a special treat for her.

The family day initiatives that Sweet Louise made happen were very precious to her as well. She loved being able to make memories with, but mostly for, her children.

I think because Andrea lost her own mother so young, she knew how hard it was going to be for her kids to lose her. She was so acutely aware of how her death was going to impact

their lives. It must have been terrifying.

But as terrifying as that would have been, Andrea planned ahead, in the hope to give her kids something even when she physically couldn't be there. She wrote cards to all her 7 kids for their special milestones like birthdays and weddings.

There's not a day that goes by when we don't think about her. There's not one morning Derek doesn't wake up thinking she's not here".

**Thank you to all those who support Sweet Louise. You really are making a huge difference to the lives of women and their families who are suffering through such a terrible illness.**

Andrea loved the support she received and asked Derek to make sure he acknowledged Sweet Louise at her funeral.

Five months on from Andrea's death we are busy planning her party. The menu is ready, the cake planned and I'm looking forward to a get together. Andrea never made 40 but she made a big, beautiful family that will love and care for each other in memory of their amazing mum.

**Karen**





# Welcome Brodie!

BRODIE KANE, WHO IS CURRENTLY A SPORTS REPORTER FOR BREAKFAST TV, HAS JUMPED ON BOARD TO BE AN AMBASSADOR FOR SWEET LOUISE.

Now living in Auckland, Brodie grew up in Canterbury, has been a journalist for Radiolive and Newstalk ZB, and has presented on Fair Go.

Brodie spent 4 years in the New Zealand Army as well as being a Surf Life Saver for most of her life.

Passionate for promoting and supporting causes she believes in, Brodie is excited to spread laughter and joy with our members and get to know those who support Sweet Louise.

Already a hit at our recent member's high tea, our members loved meeting her and having a chat over a cup of tea and cake. We're thrilled to have Brodie representing Sweet Louise and look forward to working together!



## In the field

IN MID-JUNE SWEET LOUISE GOT OUT THEIR PINK POLKA DOT GUMBOOTS, DUSTED OFF THEIR OVERALLS AND GREETED THE GREEN (AND MUDDY) PASTURES OF FIELDAYS IN MYSTERY CREEK, HAMILTON.

Fieldays is a national annual agricultural show and Fielday event that runs for four days.

Farmers, buyers, sellers, families and rural life enthusiasts came from all over the country to take part.

As part of the inaugural Health Hub initiative, designed to promote health and wellbeing to the rural community, Sweet Louise had a stand there to promote

awareness of incurable breast cancer.

To encourage people to come over to our stand and see what we do we had a few eye-catching arrangements set up.

Firstly, we had a fantastic bra wire fence to encourage people to peg a bra and honour a loved one – to highlight that everybody is touched by breast cancer.

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**Starting off braless, by the end of the four days, the fence was crammed with 100s of bras of all different colours, shapes and sizes.**  
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We put the word out for bra donations via social and public media, and in return,



had visits from women who brought in their old bras in a sign of solidarity.

Although some mornings started off at a cool three degrees, the cold didn't stop the crowds and over the four days we greeted thousands of faces as they poured into the Health Hub.

It was great to reach out to and meet members of the rural community and spread some Sweet Louise awareness.

Thank you to all those who brought in bras, pegged them up, came for a chat and showed your support! We've since taken the bras down and are planning on using them to create a fantastic bra chandelier ... stay tuned for more!



# With your help, our members can feel beautiful again...



SUZELLE LINGERIE & SWIMWEAR HAS BEEN OPERATING SINCE 1976, HELPING WOMEN FIND SUPPORT AND STYLE IN LINGERIE AND SWIMWEAR.

Coralie, the owner of Suzelles, has been part of the business since 1990 and part of the 'Lingerie Industry' for 47 years.

**Suzelles became a service provider for Sweet Louise members in 2013 after Coralie wished to support women living with cancer.**

She is passionate about encouraging women to feel confident and beautiful and knows that a comfortable bra or swimsuit can make a transforming difference in their lives.

"The first Sweet Louise member I met shared with me how apprehensive she was about coming in to see me and get a bra fitting. However, when the fitting was completed she had a smile on her face from ear to ear ... the thought of her relief and happiness afterwards still brings me to tears today."

Your generous donations mean our members are able to purchase lingerie, swimwear and sleepwear, and in doing so, add some much needed positivity and pampering into their every day life.

Check out their beautiful products at [www.suzellelingerie.co.nz](http://www.suzellelingerie.co.nz)

## Game, set, match...

We want to thank the wonderful team behind the **Gladstone Tennis Club** fundraiser for a superb event they put on in May in support of Sweet Louise. **Sarah Paykel, Jo Goode, Martin Colenbrander and Charlotte Sumich** organized a great lunch all tied in with a hit of tennis, a silent auction and an amazing raffle.

Lunch was donated by suppliers such as Neat Meat, BRD and Waitaki Valley wines. Those who were at the fundraiser were also presented with goodie bags that were brimming with beauty and hair products and vouchers. The auction had some gems too including a paddle board, food hampers, and hair salon vouchers up for grabs.

A huge thank you to all those involved. The team managed to raise nearly \$4000 for Sweet Louise – Congratulations on the fundraising win!



**Your help is always appreciated**

We have a few fundraising events coming up and we need your help!! Do you have any items, gifts, tickets or experiences you could donate to us? We'd love to auction off some wonderful treasures, all in support of our members. If you'd like to get involved please contact Liz at [liz.henry@sweetlouise.co.nz](mailto:liz.henry@sweetlouise.co.nz) / 021 146 0860. **Thank you.**

WE THANK THESE SPONSORS WHO HAVE SO GENEROUSLY SUPPORTED US:





THOSE PINK BALES YOU MAY HAVE SPIED IN THE COUNTRYSIDE ARE NOT JUST A WAY TO GET THOSE ON A ROAD TRIP THINKING ABOUT GIANT MARSHMALLOWS.

They have been specially manufactured and sold to support those living with incurable breast cancer. Agpac, the company behind the idea and production, have been an invaluable support to Sweet Louise. Donating a percentage of the sales, they raised

\$20,000 this year for our members. In addition, Slattery Contracting Ltd delivered six beautiful pink bales to our stand at Fieldays Mystery Creek. We had our own enormous marshmallows onsite to say thank you to the farmers who purchased the bale. A big thank you to all the guys at Agpac and their contractors for their fantastic fundraising and help. Your generosity is so appreciated. You are making such a positive difference for our members and their families.

## Join us for fun and fashion with Belle Boutique

Back in March Sweet Louise joined forces with Belle Boutique for a night of spirit, style and support.

**Held at the fabulous venue The Lounge in Howick, Auckland, Belle hosted a fundraising fashion night which showcased some of their beautiful clothes and accessories.**

The night also included an amazing auction,

raffle, spot prizes and a burlesque performance! A big thank you to all the lovely women who attended on the night and a special thank you to Rayner, owner of Belle Boutique. Rayner has very kindly decided to support our members again and host another event for us!

**If you're in Auckland on September 27th and up for a night of fashion and fun, grab a ticket quick!**

### DETAILS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

**Date:** Wednesday 27 September

**Venue:** The Lounge, Howick, Auckland.

**Time:** 6-10pm

**Price:** \$6.5 a ticket (includes a glass of bubbles and nibbles)

Buy your ticket directly from Rayner at Belle Boutique – email [info@belle.kiwi](mailto:info@belle.kiwi), give her a call on 09 533 5384, or pop into the shop at 21 Picton Street, Howick.



## Farewell to Fiona

AFTER THREE AND A HALF YEARS OF LEADING THE SWEET LOUISE TEAM, I AM SAD TO SAY I WILL BE LEAVING THIS OCTOBER.

I LOVE Sweet Louise, the women and men it supports, what it stands for, and the people who surround the organisation.

However, after much family discussion we have decided to return to Africa. We lived there for many years before coming to New Zealand and we want to make the move back whilst our children are still small. We have decided to follow our hearts and go for it.

I would like to thank everybody who has supported Sweet Louise and our members whilst I have been here. Please know that your support has made a positive difference for our members and their families. We are not leaving until mid October so we have plenty of time to find the perfect person to take on the CEO role.

If anyone has any questions please contact me at [Fiona.hatton@sweetlouise.co.nz](mailto:Fiona.hatton@sweetlouise.co.nz)

## Yes, I would like to support Women and Men living with incurable breast cancer

**DONATION DETAILS** I would like to donate:

- ☐ \$30 - will mean a Member will get a meal delivered
- ☐ \$50 - will help a Support Co-ordinator visit rural Members
- ☐ \$100 - will make a special family outing possible
- ☐ Your choice: .....

### PAYMENT DETAILS

I would like to pay by: ☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard ☐ Amex

Card Number .....

Expiry ..... CW (3 digits on back of card)

Name on Card .....

Signature .....

**OR:** ☐ Cheque: Please make cheques out to 'Sweet Louise'

**OR**

☐ Direct Credit to Sweet Louise: 12 - 3198 - 0032019 - 00

### CONTACT DETAILS

Name .....

Address .....

..... Postcode .....

Phone .....

Email .....

### PLEASE RETURN TO

Sweet Louise, PO Box 137-343, Parnell, Auckland 1151

Thank you for your generous support

☐ Tick here to receive information on how to become a regular giver.