

Communications & Fundraising 2025

Wellington Multiple Sclerosis Society's AGM 17 May 2025

Kia ora. My name is Suzie Linton and I've been the Communications and Fundraiser since 2022. I'm also a PwMS. 2024 was another busy and successful year for communications and fundraising, with extra challenges from the weak economy.

As Ross mentioned it was another successful year for fundraising applications, although we missed out on funding from a couple of regular sources. Thanks to those that granted funding, as Ross already summarised. Regular funders reported heavy demand and increased competition for funding. We work hard to maintain strong relationships with funders.

A big thank you to the generous businesses and individuals who made donations including Blue Star Print, Brooklyn Cellarroom, Professor Anne La Flamme, Jocelyn Fagerstrom and others. Thank you to everyone who ran fundraisers in 2024 too, including Glen Sullivan (2022's Andy Woodside Memorial Award winner), Hey Day Brewery Wellington, Brett Lindsay of Trik'n Tours and others. Thank you for your efforts, these pop-up fundraisers help us to 'keep the lights on'.

As Ross mentioned we had another MS Awareness Week Collection in September, including:

- The Committee and friends collected in the CBD on Wednesday morning
- Collection days at nine supermarkets
- Thanks to Bianca-Lucia Clark who became our new Face Of MS for Wellington
- Another Bake Sale held by Professor Anne La Flamme's team at Victoria University, and
- Posters in libraries, and at The Collective Community Hub in Johnsonville.

Special thanks to everyone who took part especially: Gayle Crozier, who collected at a Wellington supermarket for a day; and Carole Taylor who organised a small collection in Wainuiomata. Special thanks too to everyone who: ran a site, dropped off supplies or banked money; to the store and site owners; and everyone who helped to collect and donate. Together we raised almost \$8000.

We held fundraisers including a Pub Quiz at Speight's AleHouse Petone. It was a great night but a real challenge for our tiny team. Thankfully our wonderful Patron Professor Anne La Flamme and colleagues said they would help us with future fundraisers. That allowed us to trial November as 'Host Charity' at Sprig and Fern Petone Pub Quizzes, and raise almost \$3000. Special thanks to Anne La Flamme and team and also businesses and individuals who donated or sourced prizes, especially Lindsay Watson. We will be host charity again in October and would appreciate your support.

Unfortunately, we didn't manage to apply for funding for a replacement vehicle, so this carries-over again. We will try and find the best time to apply, given the challenging environment continues.

We carried on developing the website launched in 2023. We also work to deliver high-quality content via the website, e-newsletter and our Facebook page.

Thanks for your ongoing support. Feel free to get in touch with any ideas or suggestions and especially ideas for your own fundraisers! Thanks to the Committee for donating their time so generously and giving the team the support it needs; and to the Community Advisors for their hard work which is delivered with true aroha.