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## BRAVE HEARTS – THE NEW ZEALAND CARDIAC STORY

Generous support from our donors enabled us to launch *Brave Hearts – the New Zealand Cardiac Story* in August 2017. We are grateful to many of you who taken time to visit the exhibition and in various ways helped us develop this novel exhibition telling a remarkable New Zealand story.

*Brave Hearts* opened at MOTAT in 2017 and during 2018, travelled to the University of Waikato campus in Hamilton, AUT North campus on the North Shore, AUT South campus at Manukau and to Henderson. *Brave Hearts* opened in Rotorua last week where it will remain over the summer before returning to Hamilton city in March 2019. Large numbers of people have now visited the exhibition and shown great interest. Visitors have included some of the early patients who had lifesaving operations as small babies, visiting with their own families. Many former patients have sent us personal stories which we are collecting in an archive.

Our school's education programme aimed at children aged 10 – 14 years promoting science and technology to young people has been highly successful with more than 2330 children having participated. Feedback from schools and their teachers has been exceptionally positive.

*Brave Hearts* was conceived in 2014 by our small volunteer Steering Committee; we are immensely proud of what has been achieved including the fact that we have raised all the funds ourselves. As funds became available we contracted a part time project manager to develop the schools programme and a part time exhibition manager to supervise the logistics of transportation and installation of exhibition at host sites. Both these contractors have proved vital to the success of *Brave Hearts* as has practical help we have received from many willing volunteers.

We hope that all New Zealanders will have an opportunity to learn about the *New Zealand Cardiac Story* that so many New Zealanders from all over the country and their families, have been part of. However, we no longer have sufficient funds to sustain the exhibition beyond March 2019 to cover ongoing operational and maintenance costs including the transport of two 40-foot shipping containers around the country.

We urgently need more funding to enable the exhibition to travel to the other regions that have contacted us keen to host, including the South Island. We would greatly appreciate further financial assistance to help us achieve this and ask that you may consider making a donation.

Donations may be made to the Auckland Medical Museum Trust by electronic transfer to our Westpac account **03 0389 0792746 00** or by cheque mailed to AMMT C/- P Holst, P O Box 482, Orewa 0946. AMMT is a Registered Charity and you may claim a tax credit from Inland Revenue on production of our receipt. If sending your donation by internet banking, please also send an email ([peter.holst@xtra.co.nz](mailto:peter.holst@xtra.co.nz)) advising us of this. If you would like to receive your receipt by post, please include your postal address.

A recent press release from Rotorua Lakes Council promoting *Brave Hearts – the New Zealand Cardiac Story* is attached for your interest. See [www.bravehearts.co.nz](http://www.bravehearts.co.nz) for more information.

Yours sincerely

**Margaret Horsburgh** (Chair)

**Alan Kerr**

**Judy Murphy**

**Warren Smith**

Brave Hearts Steering Committee under the auspices of Auckland Medical Museum Trust