

Communications & Fundraising

Wellington Multiple Sclerosis Society's AGM 16 May 2026

Kia ora. My name is Suzie Linton and I've been the Communications and Fundraiser since 2022. I'm also a PwMS. Our communications and fundraising work continued to stay on track, despite another challenging year for the NZ economy.

It was another successful year for fundraising applications, and we received most of the grants applied for from our regular funders. A big thanks to those funders that approved our applications, which Ross has already summarised. Regular funders continue to report heavy demand for funding, and some reduced the size of grants to spread the available funds more widely. Some funders are prioritising grants for charities in financial hardship, while others see that as a 'red flag'. We continue to work hard to maintain strong relationships with funders and maximise funding.

A big thank you to the generous businesses and individuals who made donations including Blue Star Print, some wonderful individual funders, Ngatiawa Russell Lodge Charitable Trust and many other generous donors. Thank you to everyone who ran fundraisers too, including Glen Sullivan (2022's Andy Woodside Memorial Award winner) and his team of Cosplay Superheroes; Natalie and Hey Day Brewery Wellington; the BRANZ quiz team and others. These fundraisers help raise awareness and funds for WMS and our free mobile service.

We held another MS Awareness Week Collection in September, with the Committee and friends collecting in the CBD on Wednesday, 10 supermarket collections, on the street in Paekakariki thanks to Anne Woodside, and posters in libraries. We were fortunate that three generations of the Sinai family, Mum Diane, her daughter Christie and Christie's daughters Winter and Indigo helped to raise awareness with a photo while collecting to raise publicity. Christie has also been our wonderful graphic design volunteer over the last year. Special thanks to everyone who took part in the collection especially collected, made a donation, and site owners. Together we raised \$10,000.

WMS held another Pub Quiz month at Sprig & Fern Petone, with the help of our wonderful volunteers including Steve, Ross, Alina and Nicky from the Committee, Patron Professor Anne La Flamme and her team and others. Your support helped us to raise almost \$2,400. A special thanks also to the generous businesses and individuals who donated prizes. We are doing another month this October and would appreciate your support. A small team took part in Wellington Southern Cross Round the Bays event – a big thank you to Debs and Alina for their amazing fundraising!

Thanks to Bianca-Lucia Clark who continues to be our Face Of MS for Wellington

Unfortunately, we didn't manage to fundraise for a replacement car, so will try again this year. We continue to look for the best time to apply, given the challenging economic environment persists.

We continue to develop the website and deliver compelling content in the newsletter and Facebook.

Thanks to members for your ongoing support. Please get in touch with your ideas or suggestions, especially if you're planning your own fundraiser! Thanks to Steve, Ross and the Committee for donating their time so generously and giving the team the support it needs; and to Debs and Maria Luisa, the Community Advisors for their hard work supporting the community so well.