

Bone Marrow Cancer Trust

June Leeming – Bio

If you go right back to the beginning, it was a game of soccer that led June Leeming to the Bone Marrow Cancer Trust.

June's husband Noel was on the sidelines with Allison Nicol – their sons played soccer together. The two chatted and became friends, and the idea of a trust to support bone marrow cancer treatment was born.

At this stage Noel was unwell with his own cancer journey. He said to Allison, I can't be on any trusts, but I'll give you my wife June. And what an incredible gift that was!

June joined the Bone Marrow Cancer Trust in 1990, when the Trust's Patrons were Lady Diana Isaac, Sir Hamish Hay, Sir Peter Elworthy and Sir Clifford Skeggs. June admits for the first year following Noel's death she kept very much to herself, but then she started getting involved and she's never looked back.

When asked about her most memorable moments over the last thirty years, June replies – quick as a flash – making money! And her vision and leadership has been a driving force behind some incredible fundraisers.

In the early days June organised a number of black-tie functions held at her home, complete with charity auctions. After one of these events, it was reported in the paper that the fundraiser netted the largest amount ever raised at a private, home-based auction in Christchurch. How much did they raise? June thinks between 60 and 70 thousand – which she adds was a lot of money 25 years ago!

June has also been an integral part of the Trust's annual Charity Golf Tournament and it seems securing auction items was her specialty – although she jokes that since selling her shares in Noel Leemings she can't take things off the shelves anymore!

Over the years June admits there have been times she considered stepping away from the Trust, but then she realises just how much she'd miss it and what an important part of her life the Trust is - so she stays.

In 1999 June moved from being a Trustee to being Patron of the Bone Marrow Cancer Trust. But she has never been just a figurehead. June continued as part of the fundraising committee and today she is still actively involved in the Trust's activities, providing the wisdom that comes with age and experience. And while as Patron she doesn't have voting rights, June still attends the meetings and makes sure she has her say. We wouldn't have it any other way June!

We know your involvement started with Noel's dreams and passion, but you made it your passion. You saw endless possibilities and opportunities for the Trust and worked tirelessly to turn those dreams into reality. You have been an integral part of the journey as the Trust has gone from strength to strength. June - you've said yourself if Noel was alive today he would be amazed at what the Trust has achieved. We think he'd be tremendously proud of you too.

June, thank you for your support, your wisdom and your incredible generosity. You say the Trust has been the most amazing thing for you. We say you've been the most amazing person for us.