

Koru Care



KORU Care New Zealand hosts annual trips to Disneyland in California, USA, and the Gold Coast, Qld, for children who have “drawn the short straw”. Some are suffering cancer, kidney disease or heart problems or, in other cases, have lost the use of their limbs or have serious congenital abnormalities. However, they still have the capacity to laugh, smile and make unforgettable memories.

Often an injection of enjoyment

helps to improve the day-to-day life of children by helping to change their outlook on life. The time the child spends away on their dream holiday also gives their families a chance to rest, and siblings to spend time with parents who often need to give more attention to the sick child.

“I had an amazing time, because you get to go to all different places like Universal Studios and Disneyland”, 12-year-old Greg said. “I enjoyed the

theme parks the most, because I love the scary rides. The thing I really liked was being able to do it with other kids who are all like me, with heart conditions and other problems. I normally can’t go on normal camps like other kids, so it was fantastic that I could go on something like this. When I have more surgery this year, I will be able to look back on the good times I had and recovery might not be so bad.”



The California trip is two weeks in duration, while the Gold Coast trip is for eight days. The latter is usually chosen for children too ill to handle long-distance travel and lengthy days the United States trip entails. Each group consists of 26 children and 15 caregivers.

Dr Larry Skiba, from the Rotary Club of Papanui, NZ, has been a volunteer on many of these trips over the past 10 years.

The Rotary Club of Riccarton has donated \$100,000 through its Riccarton Rotary Youth Trust. The donation came about when Murray Compton saw an article in the local newspaper that the trips were under threat due to lack of funding. He thought his Rotary Club could assist and spoke to the other Trustees who agreed this was a worthy project and fitted with the Trust's objectives.

This funding is critical, with all

funding for Koru Care provided by donations from charity groups, grants, businesses and the general public.

Close to home, Koru Care holds events such as an annual pantomime, Christmas Harbour Cruise and picnic. They also provide grants for the costs of flights for children requiring medical treatment overseas.