

## CELEBRATE

Cancer affects 1 in 3 New Zealanders, which is why events like Relay For Life matter so much to families and communities. On 2 May 2026, Relay For Life Dunedin brought together a record number of participants at Forsyth Barr Stadium, with more than 110 teams helping raise an incredible \$260,000+ for local Cancer Society services across the South Island. Every dollar raised helps fund essential local services, including free transport to treatment, accommodation near hospitals, counselling, support programmes and cancer research.

## REMEMBER

Skin cancer is by far the most common type of cancer. The American Cancer Society suggests that you "Slip! Slop! Slap! and Wrap!" **Slip** on a shirt. **Slop** on broad-spectrum sunscreen (SPF 30 or higher). **Slap** on a wide-brimmed hat. **Wrap** on UV-blocking sunglasses to protect your eyes and the delicate skin around them

## FIGHT BACK

Community spirit shone brightly at Relay For Life Shetland at the end of May. On this small Scottish island, the whole community came together in an incredible show of support for the Relay. So far, the event has raised more than £103,000.

Event Chair Kerry Llewellyn said: "I was honestly amazed when the total was revealed on Saturday night. With the ongoing cost-of-living challenges, we would have been happy with whatever amount was raised. It has exceeded our expectations."



A record-setting Relay debut.

The first-ever **Relay For Life in Bastogne Belgium** raised an incredible €142,093 for the Foundation Against Cancer.

Forty four teams and 1,800 Relayers came together, to walk in solidarity with survivors, families, and friends.

Relay President Stéphanie Lambin's reaction said it all: "It's crazy. It's unimaginable."

Among the survivors who took part was Nathalie Zorna, a breast cancer survivor who said: "I want to remind everyone that it's important to get screened. For me, all this support gave me strength for something that, at the outset, could not be cured. I will certainly be in treatment for the rest of my life, but it's important for me to be able to say that life is offering me a chance. You no longer see life in the same way at all, and I can only applaud all this solidarity. I want to pass on to everyone still fighting that hope is there, and that love is the most beautiful treatment. You have to believe." Congratulations to the Bastogne organizing committee, the Foundation Against Cancer, and to everyone who showed up. This was a first Relay and event that Bastogne won't forget.

## Relay For Life of Second Life

Second Life is a vast virtual world where users create Avatars and interact, explore, and build communities together. Since 2005, it has also been home to a unique version of Relay For Life, bringing people together online to raise money and awareness for the American Cancer Society. What began with just a few hundred Avatars and nearly \$5,000 raised has grown into a major annual fundraiser that has now contributed more than \$6 million to the cause.

Just like an in-person Relay, participants walk virtual laps, honour survivors, recognise caregivers, and gather for a moving luminaria ceremony. The experience mirrors the spirit and symbolism of Relay—only the world around them is digital.

The 2026 Relay For Life of Second Life, held on 13–14 June, has already raised more than \$385,500. A total of 204 teams took part, many creating custom-designed campsites along a Relay track that wound through 40 Second Life regions. A lap was counted each time a participant travelled through every region on the course.

This year's theme, Wild For a Cure, inspired several themed hours throughout the event, including Wild Wild West!, Born To Be Wild, Dino Parade and a vibrant Pride Parade. The creativity of the community, combined with the shared mission to fight cancer, made the 2026 Relay another standout chapter in this long-running virtual tradition.



**Relay For Life Kristiansand** in Norway took place in May, where participants collectively walked and ran an impressive 58,900 laps—around 23,500 kilometres. That distance is roughly the same as a round trip between Oslo and Bangkok, a powerful symbol of the determination, endurance, and community spirit that defined the relay from start to finish. The event also highlighted the importance of good health. The Mouth and Throat Cancer Association of Southern Norway took part with its own team and an information tent, meeting participants and visitors throughout the weekend.

During the opening ceremony, Minister of Health and Care Services Jan Christian Vestre delivered a warm and personal address. He offered special thanks to the fighters and cancer survivors—honoured as the event's guests of distinction—and acknowledged the unwavering support of families, friends, volunteers, and the wider community.

Vestre noted that cancer touches nearly every family in Norway, yet emphasized the encouraging progress in treatment, with three out of four people now surviving cancer. He described the Relay as "Norway at its best," a living expression of unity, compassion, and hope.

This year's Relay also welcomed international visitors and earned significant recognition. Representatives from the Swedish Cancer Society and the new Relay For Life Jæren attended to learn from Kristiansand's experience—an event that, since its start in 2018, has inspired Relays across Norway and beyond.

Geir Wehus, the Cancer Society's regional leader in Agder, summed up the weekend as moving, powerful, and filled with solidarity. He described people of all ages and backgrounds taking part around the clock—walking, running, pushing strollers, using wheelchairs, sleeping in hammocks or even on the ground—and noted with a smile that about 120 liters of coffee were consumed along the way.

Wehus also praised the event's organization, calling this seventh Kristiansand Relay perhaps the best yet. He offered special recognition to relay leader Maylin, deputy leader Kristin, the management team, and the roughly 30 volunteers whose dedication made the event such a success.