

An Astonishing Gift. An Astonishing Life.

The people who leave a bequest to help the Hospice often have the most astonishing lives as well as their important gift supporting the Hospice so it can help those with a limited time to live.

May Gilbert, who died recently, left a very valuable bequest to the Hospice. She lived a life characterised by the care for those in need.

During World War Two May worked as a secretary in an army training camp in England. She often knew about the big allied invasions before anyone else. After the war she served with the British police in Germany, and along with her friend Janet

Burnard turned her garden into food production to feed the starving Germans. They would cross the border into Belgium to bring back coffee and chocolate and support the women who had become pregnant after being attacked by soldiers.

May immigrated to New Zealand in the early 1950s.

She worked managing a large Government secretarial pool and provided pastoral care for her staff who were often young women who had come into the city from rural areas and were living in hostels away from home for the first time.

“Having been through the war she was very street wise and always stood up for the under dog,” say her friends Brian and Dr Sue Wilson.

May, along with Janet, bought a property with a big garden in Te Moana Road Waikanae. Her friends wrote in their eulogy: “In retirement May and Janet became Samaritan drivers to take people on hospital visits. They made loads of marmalade from their grapefruit tree for charities to sell. They fed their elderly neighbours with produce and baking.”

Some of her pots of marmalade raised money for the Hospice.

May led a very vigorous life and even in her 80s could be seen climbing trees at her Waikanae home with a chain saw. Many Hospice patients will benefit from May’s spirit of giving.

A bequest from you will make a difference.

Please think about helping us with a bequest, contact Olinka: Ph. (04) 381 0163

or email: olinka.ching@marypotter.org.nz

