

Close shave for hospice

By Sarah Coddington

What started out as a good way to stay warm in the South Island has become a way to help out a deserving charity.

Alastair Cameron grew a bit of "stubble" when he went to Queenstown in June to keep himself warm while he took his granddaughter skiing.

"All of my mates gave me flak when I returned," says Glenfield resident Mr Cameron.

The returned serviceman and welfare pension officer for Devonport RSA jokingly said he was growing it for charity.

All of his friends thought it was a great idea and he decided to continue growing the beard to raise funds for North Shore Hospice.

At the Devonport RSA Christmas function on December 11 Mr Cameron will shave off his beard in return for donations to hospice.

Mr Cameron is also a member of the Takapuna RSA and a pensions officer for the East Coast Bays RSA and the Korean Veterans Association.

So far the Devonport RSA has contributed \$200 and he hopes other RSAs will donate.

The former Royal

New Zealand Navy man of 23 years has never grown a beard before.

Mr Cameron chose the hospice because it supported him and his wife when she was sick and died two and a half years ago.

North Shore Hospice is a charity organisation that supports people who are terminally ill. It needs \$2 million worth of funds each year to operate.

If you would like to support Mr Cameron send a cheque to North Shore Hospice at PO Box 331129, Takapuna, and mention it is in support of Alastair Cameron's fundraiser.



Growing for charity: Alastair Cameron is growing a beard that will be shaved off for hospice.

Photo: BEN WATSON