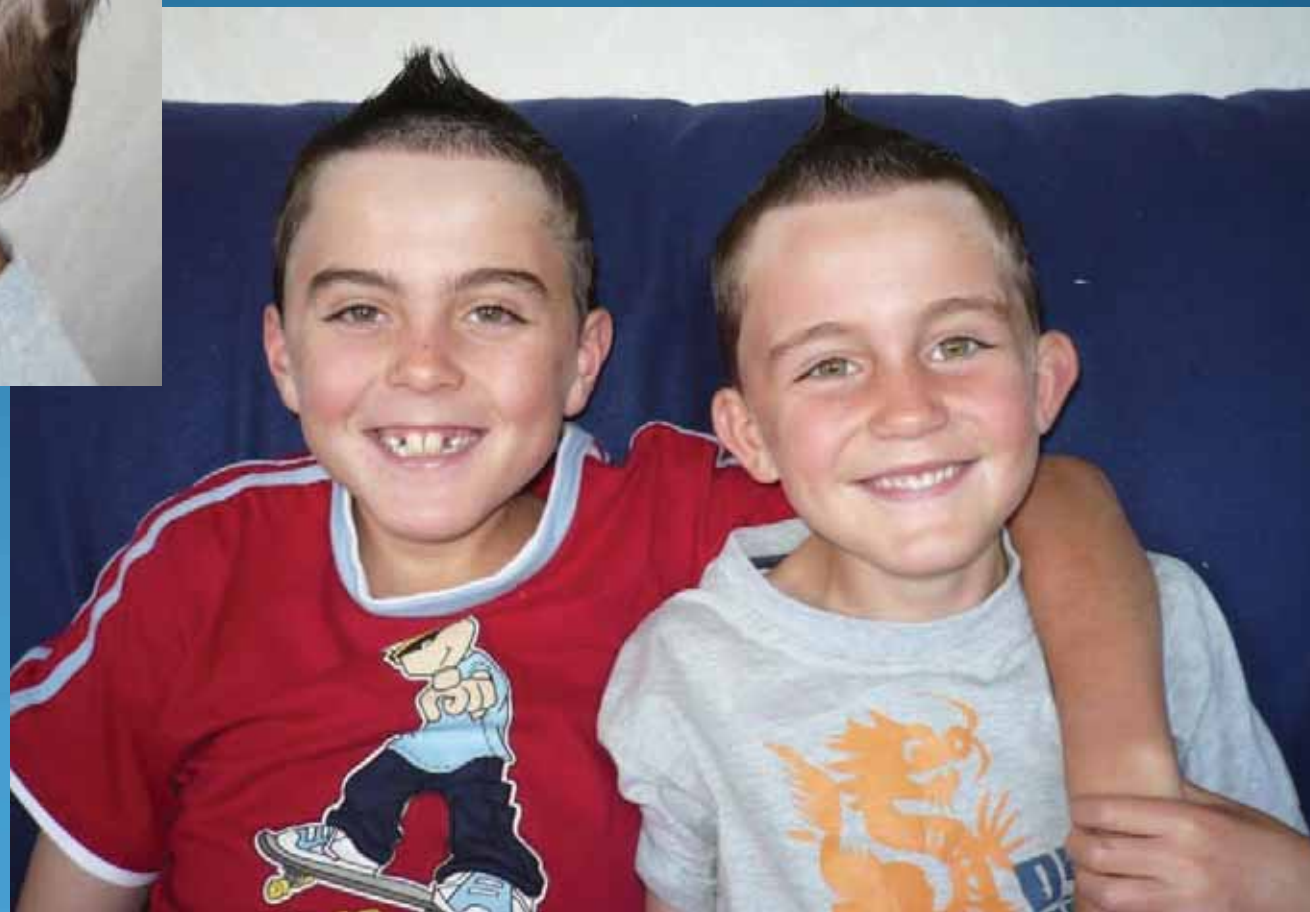


Hello, my name is  
Rory Gardiner – this is  
my journey with cancer



2009 -2010



Things I  
liked to do  
before I got  
cancer:



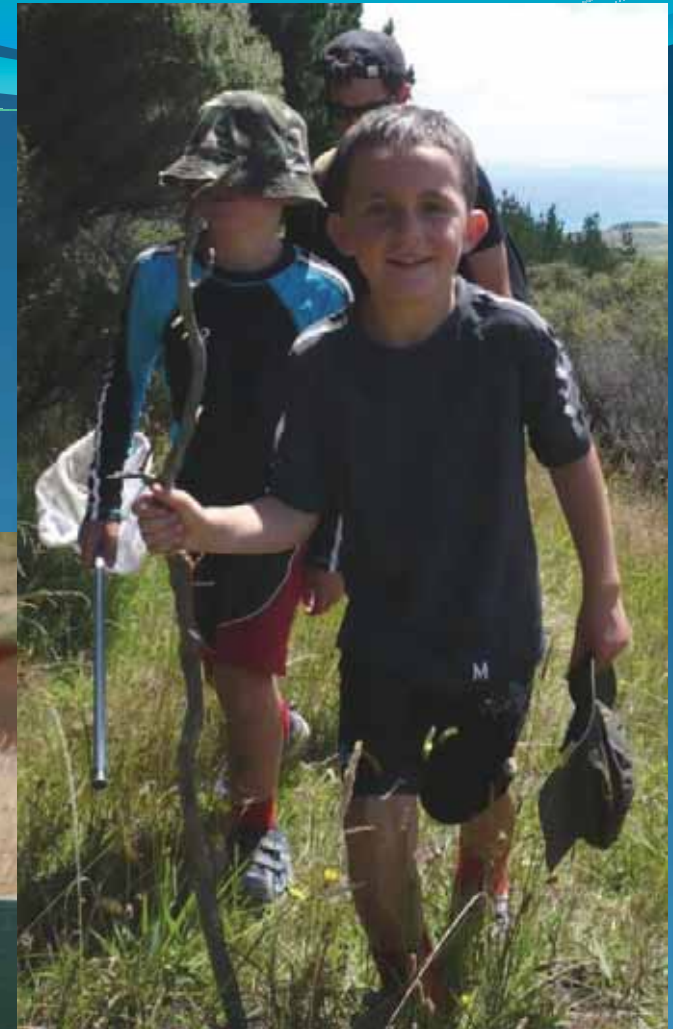
Hunting



Being with my best friend Kody -  
3-legged race at school



Exploring the wild places of  
New Zealand with my family;  
Maunganui Bluff, Northland





Swimming;  
School sports

Riding my mountain bike;  
Waima Forest, Northland







Going to Dargaville Primary;

Middle camp at the Tangihua Ranges


- morning tea at the bunkhouse
- swimming in the old kauri dam.



- When I went back to school last year I started getting headaches.
- They only came sometimes.
- They hurt a lot. Often I vomited.
- Six weeks after they started the Doctors told mum and dad I had two tumors in my brain. They were called cancer.
- I was sent straight to Starship Hospital in Auckland.



17 March 2009 – Day of diagnosis. 1st day at Starship



○Cancer is when cells in your body grow out of control and form a lump.

○ The lump can grow bigger. Sometimes the cancer spreads into other parts of your body.

○The Doctors don't know what caused my cancer. It just happened.

○You can't catch cancer from someone.

○Cancer is rare in children.





Before surgery  
with Dad

At Starship the Doctors put  
me to sleep to remove the  
biggest tumor.

After surgery







I had my birthday  
in the hospital.  
I turned 7.

My eyes weren't  
working together  
so I had to wear  
a patch.



While I was getting stronger the Nurses made a cast of my face for radiotherapy



F  
o  
r





I had three more operations on my brain.

The Doctors took out most of the second tumor.

They put in a shunt, like a tap, to drain fluid from my brain into my tummy.



Here are my scars







It was hard for me to walk so  
I used a wheel chair.  
This is my Grannie.



I collected Beads of Courage  
for my treatment.

A very special team of  
Doctors and Nurses looked  
after me;  
Nurse Steph, Mr Law (my  
surgeon), Dr Jason, and Dr  
Stephen.





I had lots of physio (exercise)  
to help me get moving again





The Doctors  
pumped all of my  
blood out through  
a machine .

The machine took  
out the stem cells,  
and I got my blood  
back.

Stem cells are  
powerful builders.  
They helped repair  
my body during  
chemo.





I had 31 sessions of radiotherapy to my brain & spine. At first it was hard to have my head trapped in the mask. I had to stay very still. I had a sticker chart to mark the sessions.



The radiotherapy made  
my hair fall out.





At home in Dargaville there was a fundraiser. 12 people shaved their heads for me, including the Mayor of Kaipara and my brother Sam .

The starters for the head shave – Dad  
Trudi (my best friends mum)  
Mr Russek (my Principal)





I went back to school whenever I was well enough. I missed being with my friends.  
The school sold green 'Rory' ribbons to help my family.





Before I started chemotherapy I had tests to check my heart & lungs were working well. I had surgery to get a Hickman line in my chest. It was like a tiny hose.





Here is my room on the Chemo ward. Mum/Dad's bed is on the left.





During chemo they gave me strong medicine through the hose in my chest. It made me feel very sick. I didn't want to eat so they put a tube up my nose. At night a milkshake was pumped down the tube by a machine.

I had four cycles of chemo.

After each cycle I got my stem cells back to make me stronger.

I was too tired to walk so I rode in a giant buggy.



I had a visit by the team from Star Wars.

They delivered a surprise from Make a Wish – a trip to Australia for me, and my family.



When I finished chemo I had surgery to remove the Hickman line.



Nurse Steph brought me a purple heart Bead of Courage to celebrate the end of my treatment.

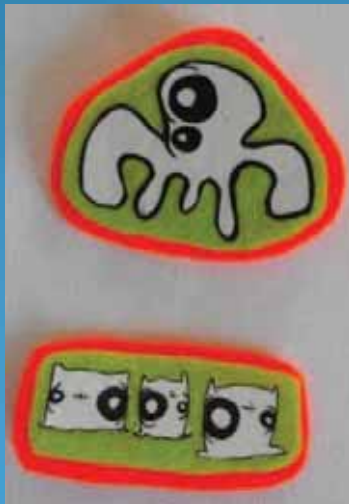


The medicine they gave me for chemo took away some of my hearing.

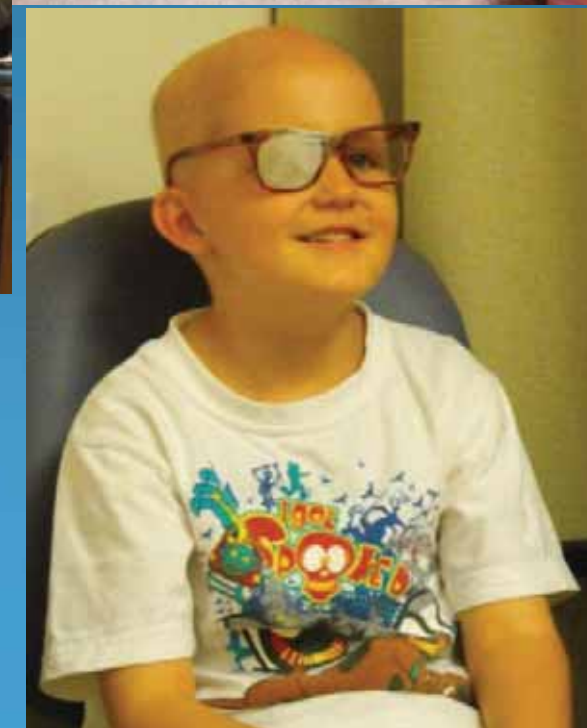
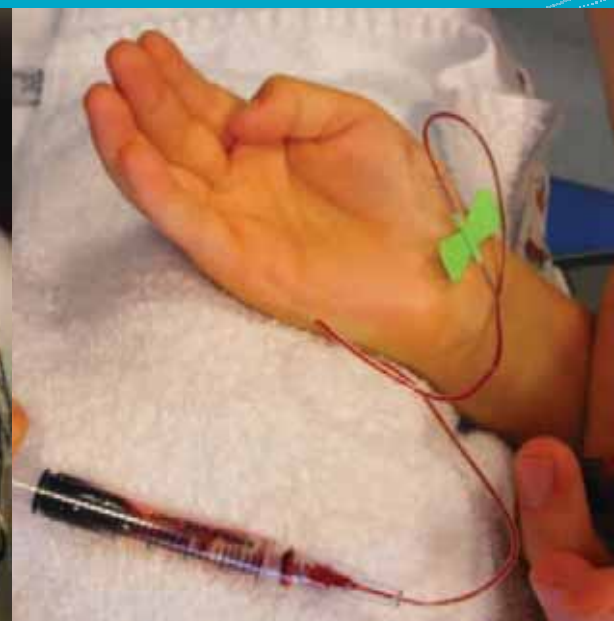
I was fitted for hearing aids.



When I left  
Starship I had  
700 Beads of  
Courage.  
I had no  
eyebrows or  
eyelashes . The  
medicine made  
them fall out.



One of my nicknames is Boo.  
I gave the special people in my life a Boo  
monster badge to thank them for helping me.



I go back to Starship four times a year.  
The Doctors take photos of my brain while I  
am in a big MRI machine.  
They check the cancer has stayed away, and  
my body is well.





I still like to do the things I did before I got cancer;

Swimming;  
at Ngahau Bay with  
Sam and Dad.

Building with lego



Exploring the wild places of New Zealand with my family; Mt Taranaki.

Going to theme parks and wildlife parks; Scooby Doo Spooky Coaster, Australia.







Laser Maze

Getting a tattoo

Celebrating my birthday



I now have 900 Beads of Courage.  
The beads are given to children with cancer to show what  
they have been through.

Each bead has a meaning.

<b>Yellow</b>	<b>Night in hospital</b>
<b>Black</b>	<b>Poke with a needle</b>
<b>White</b>	<b>Chemo</b>
<b>Rainbow</b>	<b>Physio</b>
<b>Red</b>	<b>Blood transfusion</b>
<b>Silver</b>	<b>Dressing changes</b>
<b>Blue</b>	<b>Seeing my Doctor</b>
<b>Purple</b>	<b>Taking medicine</b>
<b>Star</b>	<b>Surgery</b>
<b>Light green</b>	<b>Tests</b>

The **unusual** beads are for great

**COURAGE**





Riding my trike

I have come to Inglewood with dad, mum and Sam, for the next stage of my journey.

I am happy to be in remission. I am rediscovering who I am as cancer has changed my life.

Room 7  
supporting  
the  
Hurricanes

