

Wristbands help in cancer battle

by Annette Lambly

A plucky 7-year-old boy fighting a battle of a lifetime against a deadly and aggressive brain cancer is being given support from the sales of wristbands.

The Dargaville community has continued to rally around the family as it deals with the implications of Rory's illness. A Kia Cut event organised in June raised about \$4000 and now Dargaville Primary School is encouraging everyone to help boost the coffers by purchasing a Kia Kaha Rory wristband for \$4 from the school office. There are two sizes available, one for an adult and one for a child.

On Tuesday, Rory's mother Leigh Honnor said her son had enjoyed a day at Crystal Mountain in the Waitakeres.

Last week, Rory received his final dose of chemotherapy and the first transplant of his stem cells to rescue his immune system, which is at rock bottom.

Mrs Honnor said it is the final stage in Rory's treatment following five different operations and radio therapy treatment. She said the chemotherapy had made him quite ill, but he was still bravely facing up to doing things like some school work, going for walks and playing with his toys.

She and Rory spend much of



HELPING HAND: The Kia Kaha wristbands now on sale to help Rory's family.

their time at Ronald McDonald House, only going to the hospital for treatments and for medical reasons.

Because of his low immunity, it is a risk for Rory to be among a large number of people, but whenever possible he is visited by his father Sean and older brother Sam, who travel down from Dargaville.

Keeping Sam at school is seen as important to the family, so during the week Sam stays with Dad in Dargaville, while Sean does his best to keep a wage coming into the house.

■ If you would like to purchase a wristband, contact Dargaville Primary School on 09 439 7255 or email louise@dargavilleprimary.school.net or Dianne Zuchetto at Whangarei District Council.

BRAVE BOY: Last month Rory Gardiner got in a spot of fishing at the Kai Iwi Lakes before leaving for Starship hospital to get chemotherapy treatment.