

# Brave Rory starts new tumour fight

By HARRIET PALMER

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FINGERS are crossed little Rory Gardiner will be home for Christmas, but the seven-year-old and his family still have a long road ahead.

Rory has just started the final stage in a battle against two brain tumours diagnosed in April.

This involves a 16-week cycle of chemotherapy at Auckland's Starship Hospital after 31 sessions of radiography and two operations carried out since his diagnosis.

His mother, former Taranaki woman Leigh Honnor, said despite the gruelling treatment, Rory was doing really well.

"As a parent it's heartbreaking but he's still himself, still cheeky," she said from the family home in Dargaville, Northland yesterday.

The family has also enjoyed a five-week "holiday" from the treatments where Rory was able to spend some time at school and managed a trip to New Plymouth to stay with nana and poppa Honnor.

Mrs Honnor is the granddaughter of former New Plymouth mayor Alf Honnor and daughter of Surf Life Saving Taranaki life member John Honnor.

Travelling, taking weeks off work and funding a special therapist to help Rory rehabilitate from the brain damage caused by the tumours, had been tough both emotionally and financially on the family.

They have set up a website



**Long road ahead:** Rory Gardiner. Photos: SUPPLIED



**Family help:** The \$4 wrist bands.

detailing Rory's journey and are now selling \$4 wrist bands with the help of Dargaville Primary School.

Anyone wishing to buy a wristband, donate or catch up on Rory's progress can visit [www.rorygardiner.co.nz](http://www.rorygardiner.co.nz).

Mrs Honnor said they were also hoping to find an outlet in New Plymouth from which to sell the wristbands.