Fab support for Rory

By Leigh Honnor

Hair was flying in Dargaville as 16 people shaved their heads to support young cancer patient Rory Gardiner which raised more than $3000.

The seven-year-old Dargaville Primary School student has undergone radical surgery to remove two brain tumours as well as having gruelling treatments such as chemotherapy and radiotherapy.

Some of Dargaville's parents and officials fronted up to have their heads shaved to raise money for Rory and his family.

First up was Kaipara mayor Neil Tiller, Dargaville Primary principal Alan Russek, and Dargaville Hunting and Fishing's Jason Campbell.

They were followed by six male staff members from Carters Building Supplies.

The two youngest members of the community to be shaved were Rory's friend eight-year-old Zach Willy and Rory's brother Sam, nine.

Two crowd pleasers were planned for the end of the event – Rory shaved his dad Sean Gardiner's head and local mother and family friend Trudi Johnston also stepped up to the challenge.

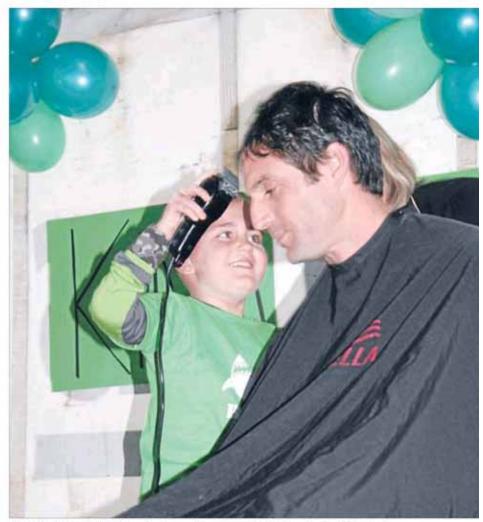"I had my head shaved so that Rory felt like one of the crowd," says Mrs Johnston.

Mr Gardiner says he was amazed by the turn out and support by the community, "it's fantastic".

Three spontaneous members of the crowd came up on stage to cap off the event, Blah Blah Blah Cafe owner Mark Willy, truancy officer Lucy Heller and Dargaville Intermediate School student Tahlia Rogers-Brown.

A cake stall, the sale of green ribbons, sausages and bread as well as the auction of flax kete rounded off activities.

There was great support from the Kaipara community and $3759.90 was raised on the day, with more pledges to come.

Rory and his family wish to say a "massive thank you to event organiser Trudi Johnston and Katherine Milich for all their hard work".

Shavefundrazor: Father Sean Gardiner with son Rory, who had fun shaving his Dad's hair.