



Judy, Richard Long and April Ieremia with Angela at her 2001 book launch, two months before she passed away.

# Judy's GIFT OF LIFE

## The ex-newsreader gets behind a cause that's close to her heart

**W**atching a friend die from a terminal illness is something Judy Bailey has had the misfortune of facing several times. But while losing a loved

one is painful, Judy says she felt a sense of peace knowing her close friends were in hospice care during their final days.

The former TV One news anchor says several people close to her have been helped by hospice, including her dear friend and fellow newsreader Angela D'Audney.

Judy (58) visited Angela in Mercy Hospice Auckland days before she passed away from a brain tumour in 2002 and says Angela seemed at ease.

"They weren't allowing her to be in any pain," says Judy who has been a patron for Hospice

New Zealand since the 1990s.

"I was made to feel welcome there and I could see that she was getting the best possible care," she says.

Many people think of hospice as a grim institution where people go to die, but in fact most hospice care takes place in people's homes. Services not only include medical treatment, but also counselling and support for friends and family.

"Hospice is very much about the living and takes the fear out of dying. The hospice I'm part of is full of laughter and warmth and the cooking is legendary," she says.

Judy says Gabrielle Prince is a woman that exemplifies the hospice experience. The two

met while Gabrielle was being treated for breast cancer. Gabrielle spent seven years with the knowledge that she was terminally ill, but lived a rich and colourful life before she passed away last year.

"Gabrielle was terrified of going to hospice at first, but she had many good years of living after her first entry to hospice. She discovered a love of painting and went on to organise an art exhibition and helped raise a significant amount of money for hospice," says Judy.

Judy's own life is lived very much to the full these days. Though she's disappeared from the news desk, she's busier than ever with charities, TV projects and a bit of writing.

Judy is getting behind Hospice New Zealand's Give It Up campaign which kicks off on November 7. The initiative encourages people to donate unwanted designer clothing and Judy is only too happy to dip into her own wardrobe.

"We need people to donate their designer yummys to their local hospice shop. I've got a few contenders lined up," she says. ■

**Emma Rawson**



Gabrielle discovered a love of art while in hospice care



For more details on the Give It Up campaign, visit [giveitup.co.nz](http://giveitup.co.nz)