

# Glenn reaches transplant milestone

By HINERANGI VAIMOSO

Glenn Humphreys is 21 at heart.

Friends and family surprised the 54-year-old with a party last Saturday as he celebrated 21 years since receiving a heart transplant.

The Glen Eden man was a fit, healthy and active father-of-three when he caught what he believed was a flu at the age of 33.

"I just did what the typical Kiwi man would have done and just carried on," he says.

"It was ages before I went to the doctor and it was then they told me a virus had spread to my heart. By then the damage was done."

Mr Humphreys didn't feel much of a physical change at first but within six months his health had seriously deteriorated and he was living in Hearty Towers at Greenlane Hospital where transplant patients can get treatment while they wait for news of a donor.

"It was a total shock because I'd always been really fit. No one could tell me how I caught the virus. I just seemed to be dead set unlucky," he says.

"If anything, this was a lesson. If I had gone to the doctor earlier, I could have had treatment to help prevent it getting this bad."



**Young at heart:** Glenn Humphreys of Glen Eden celebrated 21 years since receiving a heart transplant.

Mr Humphreys' daughter Tessa Taurere was 10 when he had his transplant and remembers the switch from training with her indestructible dad to visiting him in hospital.

"My brother and I did fun runs with him all the time and then he got sick. Through the eyes of a kid it all went really fast," she says.

"Mum kept really strong for us and kept a lot of what was going on from us to protect us but life was really different.

"We went from running around with dad to making friends with other families at the hospital because we were there visiting every day," she says.

"That was our life."

Mr Humphreys didn't let the setback get the best of him once he was out of hospital.

The owner/driver for Coca-Cola carried on with the business, along with a few others.

He's now a transport manager for a firm that sees him do a bit of travelling around the country.

"It does put things into per-

spective," he says.

"I got to see my kids grow up. I got to see my grandkids come along and still be here for my wife Vicki."

Friends and family turned out to Shadbolt Park in New Lynn to help Mr Humphreys celebrate the milestone but no one made his 21-year-old heart take on the traditional yard glass.

## Train manager assaulted

Police are looking for a man who seriously assaulted a staff member at the Ranui train station last month.

The Maori or Polynesian man, aged in his 40s, was on a west-bound train that left Britomart at 6.36pm on November 11.

When passengers and the train manager disembarked at Ranui station at 7.26pm the man punched the manager in the face and he fell to the ground.

The offender continued to hit him until a member of the public intervened and he ran away towards Ranui Station Rd.

The victim received treatment for severe swelling of the jaw and is still traumatised by the assault.

Security footage shows the man was on the train with a woman and a child.

Police would like to speak with the offender, the woman who was with him, the man who intervened and witnesses.

The offender is of medium height and build and was wearing a white hoodie and black and white sneakers.

Call constable Sebastian Stowers on 839-0634 or Crimestoppers on 0800-555-111.

Photo: ANNA PRICE