

Newsletter May 2013

Hello everyone.

Another newsletter. Like we say with each new newsletter: doesn't time fly!!

Staff

Some more staff changes. Jenny who we welcomed in the last newsletter, has gone back to Australia, without informing us. She just did not turn up for work one morning. Disappointing to say the least, but one of those things that happen at times.

After 3.5 years, Jacqueline has resigned to concentrate on her studies. We wish her well.

Also left is Sheryl who found a job doing home care.

To replace these caregivers, we have employed Donna, Karyn and Barbara. We hope they will enjoy working with us. Please make yourselves known to them.

Colder Weather

A reminder to relatives to bring some warmer clothes for your family member to keep them warm in the now decidedly cooler weather. Please take away any superfluous summer garments to avoid clutter in the resident's room/wardrobe.

Extension

Those of you who have visited recently will have noticed the extension being built in the front garden. The floor is down and the walls and roof rafters are up. Residents have been keen observers of the progress being made. No lack of sideline supervisors!

The extension will add ten new rooms (each with toilet), a new laundry and a cleaner's room. We will not have ten extra residents though, as we will be losing six beds due to double rooms being converted into single ones and beds sacrificed to allow for expansion of dining room and downstairs lounge. The net gain will be four beds.

The new rooms, and also some existing ones, will attract extra charges, to be paid by the resident. This is to recover the expense of the extension. As you know government funding for aged care has been chronically low for a number of years and we have no option but to charge extra to keep our head above water. This year's increase in government funding will be a miserable 0.89%!

Reasons for additional room charges are provision of an ensuite toilet, extra large room size or other room enhancements. Note, however, that there will be **no charges for current residents in their current room**. Extra charges will be payable, when wanting to move into a different room for which such charges apply. Any charges will need to be agreed on beforehand and become part of the Resident Admission Agreement. Please see Peter for any queries regarding additional room charge. We don't want to charge extra, but unfortunately we have no option.

As a follow-on from the extension there will also be some staffing/roster changes which will affect residents' routines. Main changes for residents are: a) moving the main meal to midday, and b) start of breakfast half an hour later, at 8 am, instead of 7:30 am. The latter is also a result from comments received in our survey and at residents meetings.

Have a look at the extension plans on the wall in the downstairs lounge and feel free to ask us any questions.

Residents Meeting

A resident meeting was held on April 3. Everyone seemed to be happy with the way things are going. We don't want to become complacent and we do ask though that if a relative has any concerns or questions, or the resident mentions anything in passing, do come and tell us. Sometimes little annoying things that are considered not worthwhile mentioning can be easily fixed, as long as we're told about it.

Email Address

In this day and age, more and more communication is done by email. It is fast and doesn't eat up forests. So if you have an email address and we don't know about it, please let us know. Send an email to peter@gbrh.co.nz.

Survey

We had six forms returned in our Feb 2013 survey. A bit disappointing, considering we sent out 18, but the results were positive. Any ideas how we can get a better return? Was the questionnaire too long or do we need a different format? What would compel you to fill out a form?

PTO

Of course we were very pleased with the positive comments and comments about staff being very compassionate and caring. Our philosophy is 'we make our home your home' and the survey results indicate we do have some success. To those who completed the survey: thank you for your time.

Dental Technician

There is a dental technician in Waiuku who will do house visits. The company name is Evi-Dent Denture Clinic Ltd and it is run by Sue Merrick. The phone number is 235 5951, or 0508-384 3368.

Advance Care Planning

Sharon went to a training session about Advance Care Planning. Advance care planning is a way to help a person think about and discuss his/her thoughts and wishes about the person's future health care. It is best to take part in advance care planning conversations before becoming seriously ill and losing the capacity to do so. The RNs will gently initiate discussions about Advance Care Planning with residents as it is very important to take into consideration the residents' views on it themselves. If you would like further information, we have a copy of the Advance Care Planning Guide and form that can be filled out. Alternatively, visit www.advancecareplanning.org.nz.

We intend to add this information to residents admission packs.

That's all. Please pass this news letter on to anyone who you think would like to read it. Feel free to approach us about anything.

Kind regards and all the best from Sharon and Peter.

Activities

Hello everyone.

What a glorious summer we have had. Plenty of walks in the sunshine. We are now planning some activities for the winter months. Kerry has been demonstrating 'felting'. Many of our residents are 'having a go' and making wall hangings and beads. Our shop continues to be popular with little treats and toiletries for sale on Friday afternoons. We enjoyed a lovely lunch at the Cossie Club on April 26, then entertainment and dancing in the afternoon.

Our next event will be a movie day in our lounge with a current DVD and an ice cream break!! We set out the chairs like a movie theatre and project the movie on the wall which makes it easy for everyone to see.

Our latest activity - weather permitting - is of course our new extension which is providing lots of interest.

Regards, Corinne (Activities Coordinator).

