

Newsletter October 2013

Hello everyone. Here we are again with a newsletter. A bit later than planned due to lots of things happening, mostly related to the extension.

Sharon and Peter will be off to Sunshine coast for two weeks to visit friends from the 28th October to the 11th of November. Gabrielle will be in charge.

Staff

There have been some staff changes. Sue, who was doing night shifts, has left and Annette and Wendy have joined our team as caregivers. Also, Rose has joined us as house keeper. Welcome to you all. Sandra as a trial did the night shift and has decided to continue with it on a four-on-four-off basis. Linda who has been helping us out on and off over the years, both as RN and caregiver, has started working every Monday as RN on a permanent basis. This to give Sharon at least one day off a week.

Extension

The extension is virtually completed now. The (sub)contracted painter seemed to try to get away with as little effort as possible and as a result had to do a lot of patching up work. The outside area between the old and new building has been filled in with a ramp and deck and it looks great. We now have an enlarged and more sheltered deck to cater for the Xmas gatherings and BBQs.

Next time you visit make sure you have a walk through the new wing.

We will be having an opening at some stage too.

Main Meal and Breakfast

Main meal of the day has been moved from 5 pm to 12:30 pm, and breakfast has been moved from 7:30 to 8 am. The latter as a result from the early breakfast time being brought up from resident relative survey.

With the addition of the new wing, and resident number increasing from 19 to 23, we have also increased cook and house keeper days from 5 to 7 days a week. It makes for easier staffing as all days will be the same. No more different shift descriptions for weekend days. The residents all appeared to have coped well with the change.

Residents Meeting

A resident meeting was held on July 30. One of the comments made was that the meals were too big. We took that as a sort of compliment, considering one reads usually the opposite in the papers. With the advent of a seven-day-cook and therefore only the cook dishing out meals, meal sizes should become more consistent.

Taking Out Residents

You are all encouraged to take your resident out of the rest home for lunch, for a walk or to go shopping. They love it.

One thing you must do is to let staff know, in advance if possible, when they expect go out and when you expect to be back. Let staff know when you arrive to pick them up. Then when coming back, make sure to report also report that the resident is back. We need to know where residents are.

It is preferred relatives speak directly to staff and not rely on the resident to do so. Residents can forget or mix up dates and times which sometimes leads to all sorts of confusion.

Of course we need to know where our residents are, but it also helps us with planning for meals and teas and issues such as showering. There is also the issue of medications which need to be packed and given to the relative in case time away is over a rest home medication round.

Clothing

Next visit check up that the residents have enough summer clothes and that all clothes are named. With Christmas coming we will get back to you re dates for Christmas carols etc.

Visitors Book

We have a new visitors book which we would like you to sign when you visit. It is to be found on the table in the staff area.

That's all. Please pass this newsletter 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.

PTO

Activities

Hello everyone. We have had a busy few months with entertainment and activities.

First a lunch at the Cosmopolitan club in August which everyone enjoyed. Ricky our entertainer was here at the beginning of September with his usual array of songs from the thirties to sixties. Always well attended and everyone enjoys his music and especially hearing about his trip to Hawaii. Ricky will be back in November.

We took some of our residents to the ageing expo in Pukekohe. On the stage Elva wheeled Toby on her walker and Sharon, Toby and Pesha put on a show doing tricks.

We had a Magic show one afternoon and everyone enjoyed patting the rabbit afterwards, having been magically brought back from nowhere.

15th November we are going on the steam train at Glenbrook. We have a picnic lunch and ice cream. This is for Glenbrook Kindergarten fundraising so if any one wants to tag along, let us know.

Early November will be Melbourne Cup Day so will be wearing our fancy hats.

St Andrews Church have their festival of flowers on Friday 22nd Nov and some residents will be visiting that display.

And of course we will be doing our regular trips in the van for an hour or two during summer and before you know it, it will be Christmas.

Regards, Corinne (activities coordinator).

