

Newsletter April 2014

Hello everyone. Here we are again with a newsletter. Already into the fifth month of 2014. Time flies.

Staff

We have seen a couple more staff changes. Wendy, who we introduced in the last newsletter, has left and Sarah has taking her place. Sarah has previous experience in aged care and we welcome her to our team. After three years Diane has left us to go up north where her partner has found a new job. We wish her well. New caregiver Vikki has replaced her. Welcome Vikki.

Extension

The extension is complete now, apart from a few ticks in the appropriate council boxes. It has become clear that as long as one stays within the council defined boundaries of thinking and rules, you're fine. As soon as you propose something sensible, though outside their square, they run away screaming. What a rigmarole. The builder and painter still need to come back to fix little bits here and there and we hope this will happen soon.

Dining Room and Lounge

Dining room and lounge have both been extended by incorporating the adjacent rooms. Walls have been knocked out and we have the extra space available now. Just a matter of finishing it off now.

New Wing Entry/Exit Doors

We have found since we have opened the new wing at times we don't see relatives come and go. It is always nice catching up with relatives. Sometimes we want to fill you in on the resident's progress, especially when you're nominated as first contact. So when visiting, please let staff know when you arrive and when you leave. This also assist us in case of an emergency. Also please remember that residents sometimes need to take medication with them when they are going out for more than a couple of hours. So please let us know. The doors of the new wing are locked before dinner for security reasons so come around the back where the kitchen is.

Audit

We are due for our three yearly full Ministry of Health audit sometime in early June. Auditors will want to interview some randomly chosen relatives and residents, so you might be asked some questions on one of your visits or they might ring you.

Kitty and Outings

As you know we run a kitty system for expenses such as hairdresser, podiatrist, purchases from the GBRH shop, etc. From time to time we also ask residents for a contribution towards the cost of trips/outings, such as Fish and Chips at Kaiua beach, Glenbrook steam train ride or lunch at the Waiuku Cossie club. Contributions requested usually are less than \$10 and charged to the kitty. We assume relatives are okay with this. However, do come and see Peter or Sharon if you have any questions. Print outs of the kitty are always available on request.

Survey

It is the time of the annual Relative Satisfaction survey again. Last year's response was disappointing and we're more or less at a loss how to motivate people to complete the survey. Would it be easier if we did it on the internet next year? Like we said last year, we consider all those that do not respond to be extremely happy with the way the rest home and its staff provide care. However it would be nice to hear that.

Resident Meeting

This is coming up soon.

Clothing

As winter is approaching it is a good idea to sort out your relative's clothing e.g. swapping from summer to winter clothes, checking out the clothes' condition and buying more if needed.

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,

Over the warm weather we have been able to get a couple of day trips in, firstly to Kaiuaa in February for our annual fish and chip lunch. We had a glorious day, the weather couldn't have been better. The fish and chips and ice cream afterwards were enjoyed by everyone.

Then in March we went to the Botanic Gardens in Manurewa for a train ride and picnic lunch. Such a special day, everyone so enjoyed the little train ride and running commentary, really informative. We have planned another trip in about August/September to see the Cherry Blossom in full flower, we are all looking forward to that.

We now have a regular entertainer, Colin King who sings, plays the guitar and mouth organ for us. He is really good and very popular and our residents requested that he come more regularly, so he now visits on the last Tuesday of every month.

Please come and have a look at the lovely felting projects that Kerry and Rosemary (our wonderful volunteer) have been doing. Felt beading, book covers, place mats to name a few.

We of course still have our regular activities and Senior Citizens at the Waiuku Cossie Club on the second Monday of every month. Noes is here on a Thursday morning for our keep fit to music and a sing-a-long afterwards. Church services on 1st and 3rd Friday of every month. We open our little shop on Friday afternoons for residents who would like to purchase a few goodies, toiletries or stationery.

Corinne.

