

## Newsletter July 2015

Hello everyone. Here we are again with a newsletter. Winter is with us. Wet, damp and cold, but sometimes with nice sunny days.

### Staff

Some staff changes again. Swaz, our lovely French caregiver, has semi-retired. She has gone to France for a three month holiday and upon her return will do casual work for us still. Swaz has been with the rest home for over ten years. We will miss her and look forward to her coming back with some French holiday stories. She might even send us a letter from France, this is not a French letter!

In the meantime we've had a second Paula join our team, as well as Kelci and Lisa, all caregivers. Furthermore we introduce Lyn who has joined us as registered nurse. The idea is to give Sharon a bit of a break after having worked more or less continuously since we took over in Dec 2007, nearly eight years ago. Doesn't time fly.

### Just for Interest Sake

Since Dec 2007 Glenbrook Rest Home admitted and discharged 137 residents, both long stay and respite. One resident, Peg, has been here nearly 16 years (she was admitted last century!) and has seen three different owners.

### Going Out and Changes in Resident

Please let staff know when you take a resident off the rest home premises. Staff are responsible for the well being of the residents and need to know at all times where they are. Also on return, please see the RN, Peter or one of the staff to inform them you're back. Also let us know how the outing went. Did you notice anything about your loved one? Have there been changes since your last visit, positive or negative? Has the resident said anything that they don't like at the rest home but don't mention it to us because they don't want to be a burden? It is helpful for us to get this feedback. Sometimes small niggles can be a real nuisance and quite often take minimal effort to remove.

### Annual Relative Satisfaction Survey

Thank you to those who have completed and returned the March 2015 Relative Satisfaction Survey. We received plenty of positive feedback and were humbled by the words of appreciation and encouragement.

We also received feedback regarding areas that could be improved. One comment was made that white washing was not staying white. Ideally, residents' personal clothing should be split into dark and light colours and then washed separately. In a small rest home like ours, this is not really practical as volumes are very low. If a resident has a delicate white garment we suggest that relatives wash it at home or bring in darker coloured clothing.

Other comments were made regarding the rough state of the car park and the upstairs part of the rest home being in need of refurbishment. Both comments are valid. We have plans to upgrade upstairs, but have had problems finding a builder willing to take it on. We expect the work to be done this year. As for the drive way, upgrading depends on the finances available. Prime Minister Key is very stingy with funding and the measly 0.7% increase for this year is not going to help things a lot in that respect. Be sure though we are aware it needs upgrading and is on our to-do-list.

The chance to win \$50 by returning the survey has not increased numbers returned. We received ten, nearly 50%. The draw was won by the survey marked with code 317. Please come and see us in the office to claim your prize. Well done.

### Animal Section

Toby, who went paralysed nearly eight months ago and had back surgery, is still improving slowly. His walking is still in a 'drunk' fashion, but he gets around. Tai, the youngest ones, is maturing at 15 months old. Pesh, the only female dog, still has her favourite staff Barbara and Collette. When Sharon arrives at work in the morning, Pesh runs off as soon as the car door opens, looking for them.

The residents love the dogs, although those with a farming background sometimes frown upon having dogs inside. They should be outside!

That's all from us. Regards and all the best from Sharon, Peter and the team at Glenbrook Rest Home.

**PTO**

## Activities

Hello everyone.

Just a little update on what's been happening over the past few weeks. In April Kerry and some of our residents made felt poppies for the Anzac celebrations in Pukekohe (see photo). We took a bus trip over for some of our people to see them beautifully displayed outside the RSA. In May we had Mr Walnut here giving us a demonstration on making balloon animals and entertained us with his humour and singing. Everyone really enjoyed it as it was something a little different. We have had a couple of visits from a lovely lady who brings her Saint Bernard 'Tank' for a visit. She visits on a Saturday once a month. Our Mid Winter Christmas dinner was on the 11th June and everyone commented on how yummy it was.



From left: Suzanne, Dot, Peaqy, Peq (sitting), Irene, Kerry, Elva (sitting), Noeleen and Joy.

We are having a regular 'Movie day' on a Friday once a month, setting out the lounge into rows of seats just like the movies and have now a proper drop down screen and projector which makes for clearer/larger viewing. Thank you Peter for setting this up for us. We had some new entertainment on the 24th July, two ladies who sing and play the banjo came. Their performance was very much enjoyed. We also have our regular entertainment with Colin King who plays saxophone, guitar, banjo and mouth organ. While playing these instruments he manages to sing in between as well! Who said only women can multitask? Noes is here every Thursday morning for some exercise and singing. We will also do an afternoon bus trip locally, weather permitting. Looking forward to meeting you all over the coming months.

Best regards to you all.  
Corinne.

