

Newsletter April 2016

Hello everyone. Already nearly five months into 2016. Time to start planning for Xmas! Hope everyone has been enjoying the nice warm weather we've had recently. Enjoy it while it lasts, because cooler times will be upon us before you know it.

Staff

We've had a few staff changes. Carol, our cook, is retiring after having worked at the rest home for 12.5 years, first as care giver and then as cook. Over the years Carol has been a reliable staff member providing delicious meals as our residents can testify. We wish her all the best in her retirement.

Taking over from Carol is Ofa who recently started with us as caregiver. Ofa has previous experience as cook in a rest home, enjoys cooking, so was an obvious choice. Welcome.

Another staff change is with Kerry, the activities coordinator, leaving us. Kerry will be pursuing her arts and crafts career. Care giver Kelci will be taking over Kerry's two days of activities, while still doing care giving.

We also welcome caregiver Shirley. Originally from Waiuku, she has been doing care giving in Brisbane for some years, but has now returned to Waiuku.

Renovations

Upstairs renovations are progressing. As usual there have been delays along the way, but we're getting there. The new nurses station next to the dining room has been in use for a while and we're very happy with it.

Ears and Hearing Aids

Wolfe Hearing will be visiting the rest home again to attend to residents' ears and hearing aids. They did the same last December. Having the hearing people come to the rest home is so much easier than transporting the residents to their shop in Pukekohe.

Animals

Sharon has been training Tai for agility. Tai is still a young dog and he often is more interested in the scents of all the other dogs than doing agility. There could be two hundred dogs at the event, so imagine what a feast for his nose. So many bottoms to smell! During a recent weekend he seemed to be maturing a little bit with coming first and second in two of the six runs. He did well, so he only got a small hiding that day. Just kidding.

Survey

Enclosed you will find the annual Resident Relative Satisfaction Survey. We urge you to have your say by completing and returning it. Your comments will point out areas where we can improve and where we already do well. Of course, we love to hear about the good things, but please don't hold back on telling us about any little niggles you might have. They're often easily resolved. Remember also, our door is always open to discuss any comments from residents, relatives and visitors. Feel free to pop into the office any time if you have any concerns. Don't leave it till the annual survey.

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.



Doctor Consultations

Just a reminder that if a resident decides he/she wants to be seen by the doctor, but the RN believes there is no *clinical* need, the resident will be liable for the cost of the consultation. The same applies when a resident or family organises a doctor consultation without discussing this with the RN.

Resident Meeting

On April 20 we had another resident meeting where we discussed matters to do with meals, laundry, staff (management!), environment, etc. No major issues. One resident requested to have croutons in the soup occasionally.

One thing that keeps coming up is the state of the drive way and car park. We know this is an issue, but Mr Key and his government do not provide sufficient funds for this to be rectified. Refurbishment of the rest home itself takes priority. Fortunately a couple of residents have promised to provide us with a new car park and drive way when they win Lotto. Fingers crossed!

Activities

Recent activities have included a trip to the Pollok Art gallery combined with a picnic in nearby Awhitu Park. The weather was good and we all had a good 'workout' walking uphill back to the car park. Lil and Jan's musical group have entertained us a few times with well-known sing-along songs. We also had Mr Walnut who entertained us while making beautiful balloon creations. Very clever indeed, see photo.

A few weeks ago we ventured out to Kaiaua again for our annual fish and chips on the beach. Like last time we were lucky with the weather. We had some rain on the way back, but not while at the beach. The man in the local dairy had a bit of a sore arm after serving us with 16 scooped ice creams.



Mr Walnut put together a colourful balloon arrangement for each resident.
From left: Peggy, Elva and Noeleen.

That's all from us till next time.

Kind regards from Sharon and Peter and the team at Glenbrook Rest Home.