

Newsletter Oct 2017

Hello again. Another newsletter. The last one before Xmas.

Staff

As you will be aware we went through the sad and sudden loss of RN Linda. We still miss her laughter and the way she always saw everything as positive, no matter what. She was one of those persons liked by everyone. Perhaps it is true that only the good die young. Rest in peace.

Caregivers Desiree and Sharlene have starting worked at the rest home recently. Welcome aboard.

Pay Equity Settlement Agreement

On July 1st caregiving and activities staff received a financial boost in the form of the pay equity settlement agreement which grants them a minimum hourly rate of \$19. By completing healthcare courses or through long service they can boost their pay up to \$23.50 per hour this year with further increases over the next 4 years (what happens after is still unknown). This is a long overdue recognition of the importance and responsibilities that come with care giving.

The settlement agreement stipulates that rest homes must be fully compensated for the extra wages by government. Unfortunately, the manner government has chosen to provide rest homes with the funding has turned into a debacle. Multiple rest homes are overpaid, some to the tune of millions of dollars, while many others, including Glenbrook Rest Home, are short changed.

Peter has written numerous letters and emails to politicians, Ministry of Health and Counties Manukau District Health Board, Sharon appeared on TV3 News. It is like pushing the proverbial uphill. The length to which some of these bureaucrats and politicians are willing to go in avoiding answering simple questions is mind boggling.

As a result, many rest homes have been hit with a damper on this so much anticipated positive event this settlement was meant to be.

Animals

Got a new flock of brown shaver chickens. With the warmer weather and longer days they are laying very well and we actually have a surplus of eggs. Pigs and dogs are all okay.

Taking Residents Out

When taking residents out, please make sure to advise staff. We need to know who is on site and who is off site. Also pick up any meds that the resident might need to take while out. We prefer to give those meds to relatives so there is less chance of them being forgotten about. When we know a resident is going out, we endeavour to have meds ready in the nurses station prior to pick up.



Hail storm on Sep 14

Residents' Comments to Relatives

Sometimes residents make comments to friends and/or relatives about little things (or sometimes not so little things) which they may not necessarily share with us ('they don't want to bother us'). Please do pass on any comments about having a little pain somewhere, or something else not quite right. It sometimes happens that we hear a comment from a relative which fits in with something we observed before. This then could be just the 'missing link' and explain why a resident was not their usual self.

Will let you know soon re Christmas events.

That's all. Kind regards from Peter and Sharon and the team at Glenbrook Rest Home.

Feel free to forward this email to friends or family. It is also available on our website www.gbrh.co.nz.

Activities

Hello to you all.
Finally it's spring and warmer sunnier weather is on its way. We enjoyed a lovely day at the Auckland Botanic Gardens on Tuesday 19th Sept. The weather was cooperative. The sun shone all day and we were able to enjoy the train ride and our picnic lunch. The flowering Cherries were in full bloom and looked splendid despite the previous wet and windy weather. We stopped for our usual ice cream before returning home.

On Tues Sep 26 we were entertained by Drury Pre School. One of the pre schoolers has a Great Grandma who is one of our residents.

Next trip is to Butterfly Creek on the 17th October. We will have lunch at their café. Although this trip is subsidised by the 'residents fund', there will be a \$12 charge. We will book that to the resident's kitty.

The annual ride on the Glenbrook Vintage Railway is on the 3rd November. A busy few months which always gives us something to look forward to.

Best regards, Corinne.



Mid Winter Xmas Lunch on July 6.

