

# Village Times

KERIKERI  
RETIREMENT  
Village

JUNE 2022

Hilary Sumpter - Chief Executive



## Welcome...

Welcome to our winter newsletter. We fended off Covid as long as we possibly could however the inevitable occurred and we had a number of staff and Care Facility residents testing positive during April and May. Remarkably we have had very few cases in the Village itself, and Village Support has done an amazing job assisting our residents with extra testing and providing additional support for the unlucky few who tested positive.

Residents and staff alike are tired and frustrated with the situation, but we continue to battle on looking forward to when Covid becomes a normal part of our everyday lives like the flu.

On a completely different subject we are moving along slowly with plans for our new Community Centre. This will take shape over the next two years. The old Social Centre will be re-purposed for our Care Facility re-build and we look forward to sharing drawings and plans as we are able.

It has been exciting to see the interest in the OneTwoSeven Apartments, with a lot of people set to move in over the coming few months. Quite the busy community over there. Grant and Karen are having quite a time keeping up with everyone.

You may have seen some of the media coverage about fair pay for

Aged Care Nurses. This talk has been going on for a long time, yet nothing changes. The aged care sector is in crisis. We must provide our residents with the care they deserve but we cannot if we are unable to hire nurses and pay them what they deserve. If you find yourself talking to an MP or District Councillor - remind them about this.

At the end of March we said goodbye to our oldest ever resident, Doris Robertson. Doris was only three months shy of her 107<sup>th</sup> birthday. She was a character to the end. I recall she was one of the first residents I met when I started here 6 years ago and she told me "I was far too enthusiastic!" RIP Doris.



## Getting Out & About

Our residents enjoy the close proximity to town and many find that they no longer want or need a car. Some particularly enjoy the exercise they get walking to New World to grab a few bits and pieces but for bigger shops they can take advantage of the complimentary Village bus which will soon change to operating every Tuesday.

We are lucky to have three very experienced drivers and two vans. One is an 18-seater and the other is wheel-chair accessible, making it easier for those with walkers and mobility issues. For some trips we take both a van and one of our electric cars to accommodate those that

find it difficult to get into the van.

When residents requested a shopping trip to Waipapa we decided it should be a regular event.

This month we took the wheelchair van to Waipapa which made it easier for DD Tulloch who, with the assistance of Activities Coordinator Karen Hawtin, was able to find the perfect outfit for her upcoming 60<sup>th</sup> Wedding anniversary.

DD was very pleased to be able to get around the shops and make her own decisions and choices. Afterwards, our very social shoppers enjoyed lunch together at a local café.

## Carer Support Assistant

Staff shortages and the extra demands caused by Covid have really stretched our Healthcare Assistants. To support them and better enable them to focus on the quality of care to our residents, we identified all the non-clinical elements of their role such as making beds, delivering morning and afternoon tea, replacing linen and a variety of other household duties that could be done by non-specialist staff.

From there we created the Carer Support Assistant role. The morning shift provides support for breakfast and lunches while the afternoon shift focuses on providing assistance at dinner time.

We have been very fortunate to recruit some fabulous talent to these roles and the extra hands have been invaluable as staff had to isolate due to Covid. The Carer Support Assistant position also fits well with the Gateway Programme enabling High Schoolers to get a feel for the healthcare sector and to consider a career in nursing.

Staff training and development is a huge part of our ethos at the Village and we are keen to support the progression from this newly created role to a Healthcare Assistant, Enrolled or Registered Nursing.



## Happy Mother's Day

A big thank you to Kerikeri Floral Art for making Mother's Day in the Care Facility brighter with their beautiful floral arrangements.

Activities Coordinator Karen Hawtin is a member of the group and enjoys sharing her love of flowers with residents.



## Welcome to...



Colin & Robyn Horsfall



Graham Lucas



Jo Moxey



Ian & Elizabeth Taylor



Ian Barnes



Mike & Sue Rowledge

## Una Harrison celebrates her 104<sup>th</sup> Birthday

by *Una's daughter Sandra Taylor*

Una was born in South Africa where she worked as a shorthand typist. When war broke out, she became a voluntary nurse at a military hospital in Pietermaritzburg tending the injured soldiers who were transported from distant fronts.

George Harrison ('Kiwi') - who after the war became the first National President of the 28th Maori Battalion - was one of those soldiers. He was badly wounded in El Alamein in Egypt and had to be shipped out to the Military Hospital in South Africa. Mum was his nurse.

Our parents married in South Africa before coming to New Zealand in 1944 to settle down and eventually raise five children. Mum recalls the primitive rural conditions she came to with her wounded husband, and how different it was to South Africa. She lacked any cooking, sewing, knitting and vegetable growing skills and quickly had to learn these - and many more - to survive.

She had no family here, and in fact it would be 41 years before she saw any of her family again. Letters were the only form of communication.

Over time, something Mum learnt was doing the accounts and grading and packing hot house tomatoes as my parents decided to make this their livelihood. They went on to become the second largest hothouse tomato growers in NZ, and the first to export.

When Dad passed away in 1980 Mum took up oil painting and enjoyed that for many years. She also travelled extensively with groups and did campervan trips with her daughters who lived in Europe and Egypt. It's hard to imagine the diminutive lady in Room 8, once did a predawn 'runner' from a Bulgarian hospital after removing the drip lines from her arm.

Mum received her Queen's birthday card and message when she turned 100, four years ago, but that was not her first acknowledgement from the Queen. On 2nd June 1953 when Princess Elizabeth was crowned Queen Elizabeth, Mum was otherwise engaged, giving birth to what she and Dad hoped was a baby boy (there were no scans 69 years ago!). The doctor and parents were astounded when daughter Joss appeared followed by her twin brother George. This total surprise package made Mum and Dad part of a small

group of people with 'Coronation Twins' - for which they received a congratulatory telegram from the Queen.

Mum sadly can no longer remember the most remarkable story about her pregnancy with the twins. Every day Mum would lie down and rest in the afternoon, and every day when she did, two fantails would come into the bedroom and sit on her dressing table mirror. After the twins were born, the birds were never seen again. This was verified by Dad and other family members.

Mum moved into the Kerikeri retirement village in 2019 and enjoys the activities the Village offers as well as the long corridors which are excellent for walking along. She wears a tracker to alert staff to her occasional quiet exit through a door, as sometimes getting outside is simply too tempting. She often comments on how kind and helpful everyone is, and this is so appreciated as she is now very reliant on others to help her navigate this stage of her life.

We, her five 'children' (Sandra, Cherrill, Joss, George, Cathy) feel enormously privileged to have been a major part of Una Harrison's long and unique story.



*Una with her children (from left) Joss, Cherrill, daughter-in-law Karen, Una, George, Sandra*



## Mad Hatter's Tea Party

Our long-awaited Mad Hatter's Tea Party on The Green was a resounding success with everyone entering into the spirit of things by donning a hat. There were some weird and wonderful creations. Vintage Vinyl provided the music and Neat Eats handled the catering. The event was funded by a 'Bring & Buy' held earlier this year by staff.



## Ready to Roll

Chocolate and carrot cake for everyone... Shane and Lesley Moon at Kerikeri Mobility knew just how to get our attention. As well as spoiling us with treats, they demonstrated a wide variety of products that are designed to help Seniors live life to the full. We had fun trialling mobility scooters and walkers and enjoyed a quiz (which some-how we all won).

It's good to know that as well as selling a wide range of mobility aids, Shane is available to service and maintain them.

We also sampled some absolutely delicious and nutritious 'Heat & Eat' frozen meals (formerly known as Pub Grub and now owned and made by Northland Fine Foods).



## Pink Morning Tea fundraiser for Cancer



We raised over \$400 selling tickets to a Pink Shirt Day Morning Tea

## A blooming wonderful day out!

After seeing a Facebook post about a dahlia farm near Kaikohe we decided to visit.

The farm was started by three home schooled children as a learning experience. It all began when their mother gave them each \$100 to start a business.

One of the children bought 4 dahlia stems, each of which went on to win first in class at the Kaikohe A&P Show. The children hatched a plan to plant more and it developed into a business for the whole family.

During our visit we learned that by splitting the tubers you get the same plant but by using the seed you create new plants.

The flowers were beautiful! Debs, our head gardener, came with us and was in heaven.

The children decided that we could be their trial for serving morning tea. We gave them 10/10 for their carrot cake and slices!

We arrived back at the village with a boot full of colourful flowers to share around the care facility.





## Manea Footprints Experience *written by a shy resident*

When my daughter saw a Manea Footprints trip advertised, she said that I really must go. She did a Tourism Course last year and that it was part of the Curriculum. She raved about it and was delighted that I'd be able to experience it too, so I booked a seat.

I joined 14 other residents and three staff members on a little coach and away we went on a bright and shiny Friday morning. We went to the café next door for a light lunch and the best flat white.

Manea Footprints is an incredible presentation of the Hokianga Maori families. The history of how and why the area evolved is mind blowing!

We were taken on an easy stroll and told the stories as we passed the beautiful carvings of waka and gods that were painstakingly executed by local carvers.

Then it was into the theatre and comfortable seats for the presentation. It started with one little screen in the middle of the theatre and then opened up to 5 screens right across the stage. It was really spectacular, beautifully presented and held a few surprises like wind blowing, seats shaking, fog coming down and our ankles getting tickled when the octopus was on the scene.

We arrived home later in the afternoon having had a lovely day out.





Say goodbye to property upkeep and maintenance of your place, and join us at ours. It's not just a place to live, it's a community, with always something on and great people to socialise with.

#### Options include:

- 1 bedroom
- 2 bedrooms
- Premium 2 bedrooms plus study

#### Features at a glance:

- Optional garaging & parking
- Common lounge and dining spaces - gather your friends for a BBQ
- Each apartment has laundry facilities
- Architecturally designed
- Plenty of storage
- Maintenance-free living
- 2 lifts for easy access
- Internal scooter parking

Prices from \$470,000

(Sold under an Occupation Right Agreement)



## BEAT THE PRICE RISE

July 1<sup>st</sup> marks the beginning of our financial year and an increase in the prices of our 127 Apartments.

If you're contemplating an apartment you need to move quickly to secure one at the current price.

FOR MORE INFO OR TO VIEW  
PH GRANT COCHRAN 09 929 5836





## Getting Outdoors

Covid continues to impact our community but to ensure that wherever possible normal life can continue, we've moved a lot of our village activities outside.

Sit Fit remains popular with the added bonus that we can now take in the fresh air and beautiful garden setting of the Village Green. Our Mosaic Group is also enjoying working outside and drawing inspiration from Mother Nature.

Our activities may take a little longer to set up but we are committed to doing whatever it takes to ensure our residents enjoy a rich social calendar and some regular exercise. All the science says that spending time outside is good for your health and mental wellbeing.

## Community Garden

During lockdown it became apparent how valuable fresh fruit and vegetables are.

We are lucky to have lots of fruit trees dotted around the village and last year students at Springbank School students built us a wonderful community garden outside the Pavilion.

Head Gardener, Deb Condron, is passionate about involving our residents in planting and maintaining the garden as a fun way to improve their health and well-being.



*Michael Aickin helps plant our Winter crop*



## Volunteers

**We're looking for volunteers**

A big "thank you" to the multi-talented Ian Faulkner for creating some garden obelisks to support the sweet peas in our flower garden.

Do you have a little time and talents you could share? Floristry, baking, sewing, carpentry, writing... we can certainly put your skills to good use.

If you'd like to help email [cheryl@kerikerivillage.co.nz](mailto:cheryl@kerikerivillage.co.nz)

# DIARY DATES

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**MON. JUNE 6TH AT 2PM**

Queen's Birthday afternoon tea and piano concert by Michael Anderson and Ann Plowright in the Social Centre

**FRI. JUNE 10TH 9:30AM**

Bus trip to the Hundertwasser Art Centre Whangarei

**FRI. JUNE 17TH 12PM**

Welcome to new residents and their friends, sausage sizzle in the Apartment Lounge

**FRI. JULY 1ST 10AM**

Citrus Celebration in the Social Centre

## REGULAR WEEKLY EVENTS

**SIT FIT**

Monday 10am, now returning to Social Centre

**DROP IN CRAFTS & GAMES**

Monday 11am - 2pm, Social Centre

**MOSAIC GROUP**

Wednesday 10am. 127 Apartments

**SHORT STORY WRITING CLUB**

Sunday 2pm in the Pavilion Lounge

**NON-DENOMINATIONAL CHAPEL SERVICE**

Sunday at 3pm in the Chapel