

# Village Times

KERIKERI  
RETIREMENT  
Village

GROWING TOGETHER

MARCH 2025

## Growing together



*Pat enjoys a visit from Daryl and Toby*

**For the past five years, Daryl has been a loyal volunteer at Kerikeri Retirement Village, and his journey has been one of personal growth and meaningful connections. Coming from a humble background, where hard work was paramount, he initially focused on creating his own life and career. However, as time passed, he realised the importance of spending time with others - especially the elderly, and that's when he decided to volunteer to give back to the community that has given him so much.**

"I have a very good life, and I thought it was time that I gave something back," he shared. He and his dog Toby visit most days and whether it's stopping for a chat, handing out flowers or fruit, or taking residents on boat adventures, his aim is always the same: to bring joy and a smile to their faces.

"I've grown by connecting with these wonderful people, and I've learned the value of patience and kindness," he explained. By giving to others, he's discovered a deeper sense of fulfilment and understanding of what truly matters - relationships, kindness, and community. In his words, "It's about growing together," a philosophy he carries with him every day as he continues to volunteer, creating a real bright spot for our residents.



Hilary Sumpter - Chief Executive

## Welcome

We had a fabulous Christmas and New Year period and there has been a lot going on. Nobody can ever say a retirement village is a static place! We are a dynamic extended family who keep growing together. There are always new and more activities, more people coming in and our people are getting out and about more. New residents bring new ideas and skills which we are able to encompass into our Village life.

Our team here is always working on growing together, both professionally and through our internal wellness programme so that we can be the best we can be for those who call the Village home.

Speaking of growing together, we have three new Directors on board. Local Senior Nurse Manager Jillian Iti, Steve Soufflot, who is the CEO of Kensington Hospital in Whangarei and Kate Donley, who is appointed by our shareholder, Presbyterian Support Northern, in Auckland. All three bring invaluable knowledge to the board and will really strengthen our skillset.

We held our annual strategic planning meeting with the board and senior managers to plan our growth for the longer term for the Village. This was a very productive day which affirmed our plans and our purpose to be a Village that is here for the community and offers something for everyone. We have lots to do; we still need to start the new Community Centre and then build more units for people to live in, plus rebuild the Care Facility. We're doing this to meet the demands of our Kerikeri community, who remain so supportive of us and for the elderly who want to move here.

Lastly, a big thank you to everyone who supported our Gifts for Goldies campaign. The response from the community and our suppliers was incredible, and it will help us provide those extra items for our residents that we otherwise couldn't afford due to funding limitations. We're excited to announce that, thanks to this support, our Gifts for Goldies appeal will now be open year-round!

## In remembrance of Doug and Pat Turner

We are deeply saddened by the passing of both Doug and Pat, who dedicated so much to the Village and to countless other community organisations, leaving a legacy that will forever be etched in the hearts and memories of those they touched.

Doug and Pat, started, organised and facilitated a monthly community dinner in our Social Centre that has been running for over 24 years. It was open to Village residents and the wider community, providing both a warm meal and an opportunity for conversation and connection.

Doug and Pat worked tirelessly, raising funds, securing food donations and rustling up volunteers. It was a labour of love and their generosity, compassion, and unwavering commitment continues to inspire.

Our thoughts are with their family and all who were fortunate to know them. Doug and Pat will be sorely missed but will be always be remembered.



## Welcome to...



Annette Lindsay



Diana Baker



Elizabeth Cotching

## Village Support

CARING FOR THE ELDERLY IN THEIR OWN HOMES

Village Support is a small, diverse team with a strong focus on inclusiveness, caring, teamwork and communication. We provide care and support to those still living independently within our Village and to private clients in the community. We coordinate in-home personal care, assistance with meals and medication, cleaning services and companionship. Our goal is to help people live their best life, in their own homes, for as long as possible.

What sets us apart from many other providers is that all of our team hold industry qualifications.

In the management team Robyn holds a RGON, Post Grad Certificate in Surgical Nursing with an Emergency Department focus, while Heather is a Registered Nurse and a Career Force Assessor.

The majority of our Health Care Assistants have Level 3 and 4 NZ Health and Wellbeing Certificates while the remainder have achieved or are currently working towards Level 2.

We are also the only home-based care providers dedicated to one retirement village. This allows us to develop close relationships with our residents and their whanau. Knowing someone well enables us to tailor more personal care suited to their individual needs and helps to facilitate a seamless transition into our Care Facility should the need arise.

We can also provide emergency services, transport, wellness checks, help with social activities, and assistance with minor medical procedures.

We can even assist with end-of-life care including support for family and facilitating ancillary services such as sourcing equipment, finding overnight carers, liaising with Hospice, and providing advice and hugs as required.

Small considerations can make an enormous difference. We recently assisted a lady with multiple medical problems who was living alone and was prone to falls. We arranged several visits each day (some unscheduled) to check that she was ok. Because she knew us, she trusted us with her life stories. She had been a prisoner of war which resulted in a phobia of showers. Knowing this we were able to change the type of shower head and to

provide equipment that made showering less traumatic and so she allowed us to help her with her personal hygiene needs. While she eventually went into care, we were pleased to help her stay in her much-loved home for as long as was possible. It is a privilege to help our elderly live with dignity and to enjoy their golden years.

### With a focus on resident well-being, this year our team has chosen two main goals.

- To identify individual residents at risk of social isolation and investigate ways to include them in their preferred activities.
- To investigate options to assist all residents attend activities/events of choice regardless of location or ability.





## VILLAGE ROUND UP



**1:** We were treated to a violin concert by Ro's daughter Lucy, who was visiting from Alabama

**2+3:** The Neat Eats team created a delicious salmon main at this month's community dinner. Village Manager Grant was happy to assist with serving.

**4+5:** We were inspired by the 'This Is Us – Here & Now' exhibition at the Turner Centre, featuring many local artists, including photography by Jeanette Walker (seen here with Colleen)

**6:** Just part of the sumptuous potluck Christmas buffet prepared by our Foodie Group

**7:** With the use of a hydraulic lift, bus driver Hamish ensures that everyone can participate on our trips out and about

**8+9:** Village residents were invited to celebrate St Nicholas day with Oramahoe Kindergarten. Resident Scott Batie played St Nicholas and bus driver Hamish brought along his dog Shakey who stole the show

**10:** Janet & George enjoying our beautiful harbour

**11+12:** A trip to the Parrot Place in Kerikeri always brings a smile to young & old

**13+14:** A paddle at Te Ngaere Bay followed by fish & chips on the beach... what could be better?

**15+16:** Our creativity was fuelled by a wee tippie during the Paint & Sip class. Thanks to local artist Raewyn King for her support and guidance

## Come and see for yourself

**There are many reasons to consider moving into a Retirement Village, but one of the most important - and certainly one of the greatest benefits - is the network of support you'll find here.**

As we look toward the years ahead, it's clear that at some point, everyone will need a bit of extra support. And as time goes on, those needs tend to grow, gradually requiring more care and assistance.

At Kerikeri Retirement Village, we understand this, and we're committed to ensuring that as your needs evolve, we're there to provide the support you need - when you need it.

Our goal is to help you stay well and to continue living in your cottage or apartment for as long as possible.

Along with the maintenance of your cottage or apartment,

including garden and lawn care, rubbish and recycling services, we offer a wonderful variety of social activities.

But what truly sets Kerikeri Retirement Village apart is our dedicated Village Support team. Our Nurses and Health Care Assistants are right here in the Village, providing care and support to residents who need it. We are incredibly fortunate to have this team, which is employed directly by us, for our residents.

In fact, Kerikeri Retirement Village is the only village north of Whangārei with its own Village Support team.

And if you ever need more comprehensive care, we've got you covered. Our on-site Care Facility offers three levels of care: Rest Home, Hospital, and Dementia care. As a Village resident, you receive priority access to these services when the time comes - an increasingly important benefit as the Northland population grows and demand for care facilities increases.

*If you'd like to learn more about the process, what we offer or take a tour of the Village, don't hesitate to reach out. I'd be happy to show you around.*



GRANT COCHRAN - VILLAGE MANAGER - PH - 09 929 5836 - GRANT@KERIKERIVILLAGE.CO.NZ

## Meet Brian and Gailene

**For more than 40 years, Brian and Gailene worked the land as farmers while raising a family. Brian ran the farm, while Gailene was a nurse (her many roles included a stint at Hospice Mid-Northland).**



The well-known couple has been an integral part of the Kerikeri community since 1972 and in 2023 they started a new chapter after moving into a cottage in the Village. They have thrived in their new surroundings despite the different paths their lives have now taken.

While Gailene enjoys the independence of living in one of our charming cottages, participating in fitness classes like Sit Fit and Yoga, and staying active, Brian resides in our Care Facility, where he receives the care and support he needs.

Gailene's vibrant energy and love for life shine through as she embraces her role as friend to many and active Nana to her eight grandchildren. They love regular visits with Poppa, spending quality time with him in the Care Facility, creating cherished memories together.

Brian enjoys plenty of visitors and planned outings as part of the diversional therapies that we offer. Connecting with people and things familiar to him elicits a beaming smile! He is a "yes" man and gets stuck in to all the activities offered.

Gailene says that the initial shock and sadness of leaving their own home was hard emotionally and mentally, however they are now both settled and loving life.

Our Village has become more than just a place to live... our sense of community is rooted in compassion, connection, and care. It's a place where resilience, strength, and growth continue to unfold. We invite you to explore how our village can be a place for your family too - a place where you can continue to grow, together.

## New Board Members

# OPEN DAY



**Saturday  
APRIL 5<sup>TH</sup>  
10am - 2pm**

- Studios
- Apartments
- Cottages

*Take a stroll  
around our  
beautiful grounds*

Home Support & Care Facility onsite



125-127 Kerikeri Rd  
Kerikeri

Kerikeri's only charitable retirement village

[www.kerikerivillage.co.nz](http://www.kerikerivillage.co.nz)



**Steve Sufflot**

Steve Soufflot is the Chief Executive of Kensington Hospital in Whangārei, Northland's only comprehensive private surgical hospital. He worked for Medlab Hamilton between 2001 and 2008, initially as Human Resources Manager and subsequently as General Manager.

Steve holds an MBA from the Henley Business School and a Diploma in Business Studies (Health Management) from Massey University.

He is a past Vice-President of the NZ Private Surgical Hospital Association and past President of the Northland Branch of Human Resource New Zealand (HRNZ), a not-for-profit membership organisation providing services and support for people who work in HR.



**Jillian Iti**

Jillian Iti has more than 30 years' experience as a Registered Nurse and has spent the past decade in senior roles in both the corporate and not-for-profit spaces. Most recently she served as General Manager of RDNS (Royal District Nursing Service) New Zealand, a not-for-profit organization that provides home-based healthcare and support services.

Before this she was the National Care Service Support Manager at Te Roopu Taurima, New Zealand's largest kaupapa Māori disability support provider offering services to people of all ethnicities with intellectual impairments.

She also held the role of National Quality Manager at Geneva Healthcare Ltd.

## Puketi Forest trip



## A fantastic community effort!

**We're excited to announce that our Gifts for Goldies appeal, which launched at Christmas, is now open year-round! This initiative, which raised nearly \$27,000, supports the residents of our Care Facility with donations for items and activities that enhance their well-being.**

The ongoing Gifts for Goldies appeal helps us fill the funding gap left by Health NZ/Te Whatu Ora, as aged care funding struggles to keep up with rising costs. Your support enables us to continue offering the best care, joy, and dignity to our residents. Thanks to the generosity of our donors, we've already begun implementing several improvements.

These include more planned outings for residents, enhanced activities in the Care Facility and the purchase of vital medical equipment. Additionally, we're thrilled to share that local artist Erika Pearce is working on 5 beautiful murals for our Tui Wing, funded in part by a very generous \$3,000 donation!

We continue to focus on reaching our goal of acquiring the last eight pressure-relieving mattresses urgently needed for our Care Facility as well the transformation of our outdoor space in the Tui Wing into a serene and beautiful sensory garden. This new addition will provide a peaceful environment for our residents to enjoy, stimulating their senses and offering moments of relaxation and encouraging more social participation and inclusion.

We are incredibly grateful for the generosity of our donors, and we want to remind everyone that no gift is too small. Whether you contribute towards one of the larger projects or make a smaller contribution,

every donation helps make a difference. You don't need to purchase a full gift to be part of this wonderful initiative – every bit counts, and we appreciate your support!

We are very keen to partner with more local businesses to promote this appeal and invite them to get involved with the Village. We are Kerikeri's only charitable village and partnering with us is a great way to give back to the community, making a lasting impact to those that have already given.

**You can donate online at [www.kerikerivillage.co.nz/donations/gifts-for-goldies](http://www.kerikerivillage.co.nz/donations/gifts-for-goldies) or email [adele@kerikerivillage.co.nz](mailto:adele@kerikerivillage.co.nz)**



**Gifts for Goldies**

**Visit [www.kerikerivillage.co.nz](http://www.kerikerivillage.co.nz) to sign up for news by email**

[admin@kerikerivillage.co.nz](mailto:admin@kerikerivillage.co.nz)

Facebook: /kerikerivillage

09 407 0070 Registered Charity No. #CC55403

**KERIKERI**  
RETIREMENT  
**Village**