

# Village Times

DECEMBER 2019

Hilary Sumpter - Chief Executive



## Welcome... TO OUR NEWSLETTER

It is Christmas No.4 here for me at the Village and events are happening everywhere. What a whirlwind of a year!

Our apartment building at 127 Kerikeri Road is moving ahead. Whilst we'd all like it finished 'now', the team led by Henwoods are making good progress. Frances is doing well managing the level of interest and enquiries coming in from all around.

It has been a big year again, both for the Village and the Care Facility as we implement changes that will benefit our residents over time. New computer software is becoming the friend of us all and whilst computers will never replace us, they can certainly make

our tasks easier so we can spend more time on the important stuff – our people.

Recently we were reflecting on how long many of our staff have worked here, which is a huge part of why this place is so good. In November we celebrated three staff each working here for 10 years, (you know who you are Geran, Lisa, Dawn), and really, they're just new on the scene compared to others.

To that end we have had to farewell Jan Gough, after 28 years with us. Jan started here as a Healthcare Assistant when the Care Facility opened in 1991 and retires as our wonderful Chaplain. No words can adequately express our gratitude to Jan as she has been such an

asset and support to us all. There's a feature on Jan in this newsletter.

Our voluntary Board have again put in a lot of time this year, and while it's not always obvious how much they do, they are putting in a lot of work behind the scenes ensuring we are always alert and accountable with our strategies and actions. I'd like to thank them all for their input and support.

Finally, a huge thank you and Merry Christmas to all our residents and their families, our staff, and our volunteers who all together make us this fantastic 'family of 400'.

I look forward to seeing you all in 2020.



St John Youth Kerikeri Division decorated the Christmas tree in the Tui Wing while the Kerikeri Keas (pictured right) did the tree in the Robinson Wing. Thanks to all who have given their time and energy to make our Care Facility so festive.

## Meet our Social Centre Co-ordinators

Here at Kerikeri Retirement Village we are very privileged to have a lovely Social Centre where we offer a Day Program 3 days per week for our older community members. This gives them an opportunity to socialise and participate in activities and allows their dedicated carers a respite from the demands of being a full-time care giver.

The mainstays of this program are our wonderful Social Centre Co-ordinators Bernadette Waller and Amanda Millar. They inject their enthusiasm and magical ideas into each specifically designed and themed day which targets the abilities and interests of those attending. Bernadette has been involved in our Day Program for some time and has a wonderful ability to make each member of the program feel valued and part of the family, a persistent smile always decorates her face. Amanda aka the "Chief of Cheerfulness" has

a seemingly endless supply of creativity and fantastic ideas.

This pairing makes for a successful combination of amazing ladies who can give our wonderful program participants a lift to their week and something to look forward to. From time to time there are performances by community musical groups or outings on the bus. The program is funded by the Northland District Health Board, and not surprisingly there is a wait list to attend.



*Bernadette Waller and Amanda Millar.*

For a referral to this program contact your GP.

## MOVE IN NOW!

## MODERN & SUNNY 1 BEDROOM UNITS - \$230,000



Kerikeri Retirement Village has two newly refurbished, modern and sunny 1 bedroom apartments with outdoor patios available now.

Each kitchen contains an oven, hob and refrigerator for those who like to cook and the generous size living area is great for entertaining friends and family.

Enjoy plenty of privacy and independence with the added peace of mind that help is at hand should you need it.

Just a few minutes' walk to the supermarket, and close to shops, cafes and medical centres, everything you could want is within easy reach.

To view or for more info call  
Frances Shaw - 09 929 5836

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



## Happy 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday Lorraine

Pansy Lorraine Robson (nee Townend) was born at home on November 1<sup>st</sup>, 1919. Known as Lorraine, she was the fourth of seven children born to Randolph and Gertrude Townend of Wellington.

Lorraine's family moved a few times during her younger years so she attended three different primary schools in Wellington and Lower Hutt before gaining her Senior Free Place (similar to School Certificate) at Hutt Valley High.

In 1935 Lorraine began working as a shorthand typist in a clothing business before going on to attend Longburn College in Palmerston where she graduated from a Secretarial/Business Course in 1937. During her 2 years at Longburn, Lorraine worked part-time in the library and also became an assistant to the Principal.

On October 14<sup>th</sup> 1942 Lorraine married Private Edwin (Ted) Turner Robson and as a war bride she

experienced the loneliness that many brides of that era endured. They were married for 45 years before Ted passed away in 1987 aged 79.

Lorraine and Ted had three children. Annette was born in 1943, son Earle arrived in 1949 and their youngest Ladelle was born in 1957.

Throughout her working life Lorraine held a variety of jobs including working as a secretary, shorthand typing teacher, shop manager and as a casual food demonstrator.

Lorraine has always had a passion for gardening and remains well known for her very neat and tidy gardens across the years. She also enjoys entertaining friends and family and has travelled on numerous occasions to visit family in Australia. One of her more memorable trips was to Norfolk Island which is a popular destination for Garden Tours.



A good Christian, Lorraine is well regarded for her caring and compassionate nature and she helped to care for her Mother for over 30 years.

Lorraine attributes her longevity to the fact that she doesn't smoke or drink alcohol and prefers vegetarian food.

She celebrated her milestone birthday with a High Tea for friends and family prepared by the Kerikeri Retirement Village staff.



# Christmas a time for thanks

We are tremendously grateful to our many volunteers who assist residents of the Care Facility with a myriad of helpful tasks from arranging flowers and helping with personal correspondence, to providing company or helping to select library books. This provides important interaction and brings a smile to the residents, while freeing up Healthcare Assistants and Nurses to focus on more specialised care. As a thanks for their dedication, we invited our volunteers to a beach themed Christmas party where they enjoyed lots of amazing food from our catering team and a photobooth provided plenty of entertainment.



## Our Christmas Parade Float

THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE HOME - 'VILLAGE OF OZ'



# Resident's Xmas Dinner



## Christmas Memories from our Board

We asked our directors to share some of their Christmas memories this year...



SUZANNE

**Suzanne Brocx** remembers... My best Xmas memory was when we had our two young ones waking up on Xmas morning to find that Santa HAD visited and had drunk half the milk and eaten the cookies!

Not only were his footprints on our deck but the reindeer had pooped on the deck.

Needless to say Santa had a helper that had ventured up the road to a local woolshed to get a bucket of 'reindeer poo'! We still laugh about that and they are now 27 and 24.



ANGELA

**Angela Sanson** also recalls making Christmas special for her 8 year old daughter and 11 and 14 year old sons... My naughty boys had been telling their sister that there was no such thing as Santa Claus leaving her downcast and dejected.

Christmas Eve Santa (a.k.a. Mum) had been up really late getting things sorted. Finally it was too late to go to bed so I had a shower at 5 am. Outside the shower I heard this excited little voice "He's been! He's really been!!! The boys are wrong!" Makes it all worthwhile doesn't it?



VICKI

**Vicki Douglas** A touching memory ... In 2015 when I was undergoing chemotherapy, my daughters arrived in Kerikeri for Christmas to cook a lovely Christmas meal for me.

My eldest daughter, Kate, decided that it would not be Christmas without a Christmas wreath on the table so she ventured into my garden to find some flowers and foliage to make one. But all she could find in my garden that had any colour was thistles! Just as well we have a good Scottish history in our background!



BRENT

Making Christmas real for those around us can be a tough gig sometimes. **Brent Hewitt** recalls his time working for the IRD when he took on the role of Santa visiting the children of the staff in their own homes. Picture this.... a hot summer day, full Santa suit, being driven in an open Vintage Car to 25 different homes.

There were many, many delighted kids but it was thirsty work and all the families kindly had drinks on hand ... lots of beer and champagne, drunk through a straw which apparently is even more intoxicating because of the extra air with the alcohol. Santa needed two hefty elves to help him onto his couch at the end of the day.

The Board would like to wish all of our residents and readers a very enjoyable and memorable Christmas and a happy and healthy 2020.

# Meet our new Head Gardener – ANGELA MARINKOVIC



Some would call me a 'tree hugger' but really I am just a lover of plants whether they are trees, flowers, berries, or fruit bearing specimens.



Growing up in Northland I developed a love of the great outdoors which influenced my eventual study of horticulture and landscape design.

Armed with this knowledge I started my own business and eventually took all of that experience into a teaching role.

Prior to coming the Village I was the Head Gardener at Pompallier Mission House in Russell and also enjoyed a stint as a Contract Gardener at Kemp House in Kerikeri.

I have also dabbled in the tourism industry. I still like to travel, and I spend my spare time (when I'm not tending to the home garden!) with family and friends, out on the water, or hiking on the many great walks we have on offer.



If you see me about the Village please come and say hi, as I'm enjoying meeting you all and hearing your stories.

I really love the diversity of the Village gardens and am working hard with my team to maintain good plant health and to keep our lovely grounds tidy.



## Garden Ramble

Social Centre Activities Co-ordinator Amanda Millar, in conjunction with the Gardening Club, recently held a three day Garden Ramble at the Village.

Five residents generously opened their gardens from 10-12pm for guided walking tours while others opted for viewing from a chauffeur-driven golf buggy. Thanks to all who opened their homes and also to our wonderful gardeners, past and present.



## Jan Gough takes a final bow after nearly 30 years

We're sad to see the recent departure of our Chaplain and long-time friend Jan Gough. Jan has been our Chaplain for the past twenty years but also worked here as a Diversional Therapist from October 1991 - that's 28 years of dedication wrapped up in one magnificent lady.

When Jan came to live in Kerikeri with her husband and disabled foster-son, she was intending to retire. Tragically, her son died and Jan wanted something to keep her busy so she applied to the Village for a job and was accepted as a care worker.

Very soon she decided to train as a Diversional Therapist. She was one of the first people in New Zealand to obtain the National Certificate in Diversional Therapy, and also one of the first to become a Registered and Qualified Diversional Therapist. She then set about establishing a Diversional Therapy Department in our Care Unit.

New passions and interests have seen Jan expand and extend her role with us over and over again. Training, local community liaison, fund-raising and funding co-ordination, dementia care – all these and more have come under Jan's wing over the years.

We are indebted to her for the thousands of hours she has put into organising hundreds of events here at the Village. ANZAC Day, Father's Day, Queen's Birthday, Christmas Parades, Christmas pantos, activities for our residents... the list goes on.

In her role as Chaplain, Jan was the driving force behind the construction of our Ted Robinson Memorial Chapel. As a Charitable Company our ability to undertake infrastructure projects is largely reliant on donations from generous benefactors. One day Jan was speaking with Mr Robinson about the spiritual wellbeing of our residents and how fulfilling and useful it would be to have a chapel

here. It wasn't long after that, that Mr Robinson put up the funding for the construction of the chapel and played his part in answering Jan's prayer.

Jan has played a vital role in ministering to our flock here at the Village and is greatly-loved but, at the age of 80, it's time for her to revisit the idea of retirement that she abandoned nearly three decades ago. There is no way we can put a value on the love, care, commitment and dedication she has poured into our place, and our people. Thank you, Jan; enjoy your years of richly-deserved retirement.

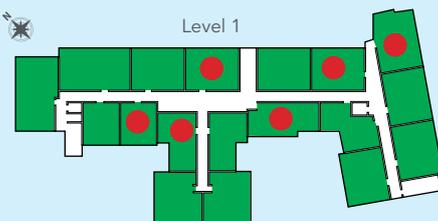
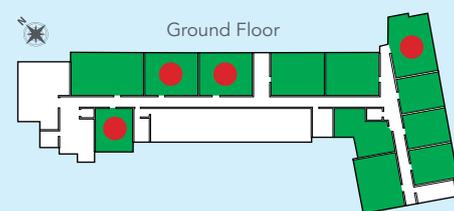




## The Roof Is On!

We already have electricians crawling all through the building and glaziers on site. Off-site our kitchens are being constructed. It's very exciting to see the progress and walk around the building. As you can see by the red dots on our plans, the apartments are being snapped up, so be sure to reserve yours now!

Prices on application.



1 bedroom apartment



2 bedroom apartment



2 bedroom premium



For more information contact Frances Shaw on 09 929 5836

## Donated Worm Farm

Kerikeri kindergarten donated a worm farm to our residents Gardening Club here at the Village.

Our Head Gardener Angela Marinkovic and Activities Co-ordinator Karen Hawtin visited the kindergarten to collect the worm farm and were very impressed with the students' vege gardens.

The new worm farm is located near the gardener's shed and it will be used to help improve the compost that the Gardening Club is making in preparation for a Community Garden that is being developed near the Wendywood Pavilion. Gardening Club members are learning about the dos and don'ts of composting and are looking forward to planting their own veges



next year. As part of this initiative Springbank School is donating a raised planter box that will make it easier to dig the beds.

## Staff Wellness Program

At the Village we have a Staff Wellness program to promote mental, physical, social and work wellbeing.

Every month we have lots of activities both here in the Village and out in the community.

To celebrate the Rugby World Cup from September to November, countries were drawn for teams to get creative with costume and culture.

The focus on healthy eating this time was on Italian cuisine and a lot of us attended a cooking class where we learned to make homemade pasta and authentic sauces.



## Waitangi Bus Trip



In November a group of our cottage and apartment residents took in the sights and cultural show at the Waitangi Treaty Grounds before enjoying a leisurely lunch.

We highly recommend a day playing tourist in our own town as it was a very entertaining day.



## Welcome to ...



Wendy Painter (pictured) and Margaret Green.



## Diary Dates

### CHRISTMAS CAROLLING

Fri. Dec 20<sup>th</sup> | 10am

Christmas Carolling around the Village.

### AFTERNOON TEA

Wed. Jan 8<sup>th</sup> | 2.30pm

In the Wendywood Lounge.

### MOVIE AFTERNOON

Wed. Jan 22<sup>nd</sup> | 2.30pm

In the Wendywood Lounge.

### SPEAKER ROBIN BOOTH

Wed. Jan 29<sup>th</sup> | 3.30pm

Topic: Antarctica. All welcome.

## Coming Up

### AFTERNOON TEA

In February | TBC

At Driftwood Seaside Escapes on Puerua Peninsula.

### VILLAGE FETE

In March | TBC