

Village Times

KERIKERI
RETIREMENT
Village

GROWING TOGETHER

SPRING ISSUE - SEPTEMBER 2025



Our new community centre

AFTER four years of planning, we now finally have a start on the new community centre. Our residents and staff are all enjoying watching the progress on the site, with several vantage points already established for the best possible views. Although we were all somewhat relieved when the compacting stopped!



From Above



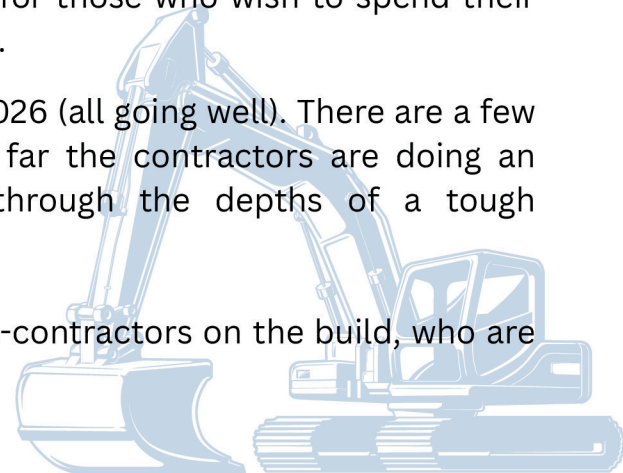
This new centre will become a fabulous new facility for the village and the community; enabling a myriad of activities and functions to take place. It will become a hub for the village and will offer many different ways for our residents to look after their health and wellbeing. And in a modern building that can be heated in winter and cooled in summer.



The current social centre will ultimately be re-purposed to support the care facility and aligns with our future plans to expand to meet the demand for those who wish to spend their retirement years in our village.

Building the new centre will take until the end of July 2026 (all going well). There are a few milestones between then and now of course, but so far the contractors are doing an amazing job of keeping the site going, including through the depths of a tough winter this year.

Fortunately, we are utilising a large number of local sub-contractors on the build, who are used to building in Northland winters!





Spring signifies growth and new beginnings

This newsletter is my last as I sign off from my 9 years at the Village (and by the time you read this I will be starting new adventures).

I have had the most fabulous time here. I've learnt so much, made so many friends and experienced a whole different world.

Through the loving attention of our team, we've grown the Village and made so many improvements. We're not perfect and we're not flashy, but we have a whole lot of love, respect and shared values that make this a very special place.

I moved up from Auckland for this role and found living in Kerikeri to be a real pleasure. I feel the same way about the Village community, which is so caring and supportive of all who live here.

With more free time, I intend to make some changes including visiting my increasing number of grandchildren, none of whom are local.

My thanks to all the whānau, staff and residents

Somebody with fresh eyes and objectivity will bring a whole new momentum to the Village and this is never a bad thing.

*While the recruitment process gets underway, our Deputy Chair, **Kylie Mooney** will be holding the fort.*

And after four long years of planning, the Community Centre is underway, so that's a good note on which to leave.

Thank you everyone for the wonderful time I have had at the Village. I go with much love for the Village and all its people.

Arohanui.

Hilary

Welcome
to our new residents



Johnny and Pauline Wintour



Terry
Corridan



Barry Ivey



A warm thank you to Manuka Mountain

We extend our sincere thanks to Manuka Mountain for their generous donation of 60 jars of honey to our care facility.

This thoughtful gift has been put to wonderful use by our Diversional Therapy team, who have been guiding residents in making soothing honey and lemon drinks as part of our programme.

It's been a comforting and enjoyable activity that's brought smiles and warmth to many. Thank you, Manuka Mountain, for your kind support of our community.



Farewell Grant

"As I prepare to depart for the next chapter of my life, I am reflective on my time here.

It has been my privilege to be a part of the journey of so many residents, past and present, it truly has.

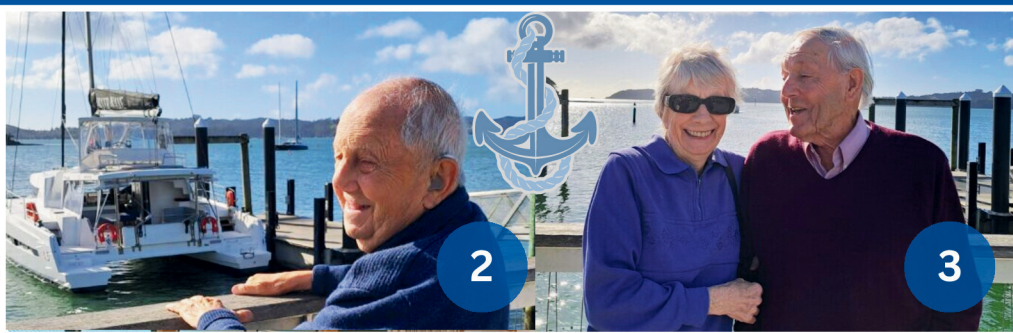
I have tried to provide the information needed to help people with their decision to take the big step into Village life, to assist and welcome our new residents with their transition, to support people to live well through their years of independent living, and help people navigate the next step into care when the time comes.

This is a unique time of life, and it is best done with a support network of people around you. I am grateful to our team - good people doing good things. I'm proud to have been a part of it. Take care of each other and keep well. I wish you all the best."

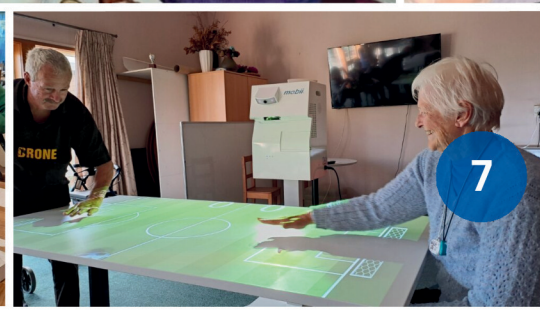
Grant



Grant



Village ROUND UP





1. With the focus on wellness, **Alison** is supported by the Village team to attend a creative painting session at the social centre

2. **Claude** enjoyed spotting a catamaran on a recent outing

3. **Elizabeth and Eddie** enjoyed the Paihia waterfront

4. The Musical Memory Makers lift spirits

5. Cosy winter evenings and a visit from the kindergarten

6. Thanks to **Donna** from **Bay Audiology** for maintaining hearing aids and looking after our audio health

7. **Scott and Adele** play a game on the Omnisensor

8. Chair Yoga causes a giggle

9. The Knitting Group entered the Yarn Bombing competition

10. **Luca** from Sardinia, Italy wowed us with a piano recital

11. **Ro's** family all share a talent for violin playing

12. **June and Larry** played world music on traditional instruments

13. **Maria Nichol** from **Dignified Minds** chats with **Jan Gough**

14. The Food Group celebrated Matariki with Santa Claus

15. The King's Birthday concert. Pianists: **Annette and Anne**

16. The Waitangi trip





Watching the residents let everything go and enjoy 20 minutes of peaceful relaxation in the chair is incredibly rewarding

- One of the volunteers

Nordic Wellness Chair

In a quiet corner of the Care Facility sits our wellness chair. This gentle rocker with soothing music creates a calm space for relaxation and mental well-being. It's especially beneficial for residents with Parkinson's, easing anxiety and lifting mood. Thanks to volunteers, the chair now operates four days a week and is making a real difference in residents' lives.

Keeping residents moving: our in-house physiotherapy team

The Village funds a physiotherapy service, seeing it as essential to ageing well. Jenny, our physiotherapist and her assistant, Rosalyn assess mobility and create tailored programmes. They also run weekly Sit Fit, Tai Chi, and Balance classes to promote strength, coordination, and

confidence. Their work extends to falls prevention, breathing exercises, equipment checks, and staff training, helping residents stay mobile and independent for longer. We're proud of this vital service and remain committed to growing it as resources allow.

Stylish

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We have a rare opportunity offering a number of stylish apartments conveniently located in the heart of Kerikeri township at 127 Kerikeri Road. Each offer modern decor, comfort and a welcoming community atmosphere.



In addition to overseeing Health & Safety to ensure staff, residents, and visitors alike remain safe within the Village, **Artie** also looks after the Quality Assurance processes required for our Ministry of Health Certification.

With 10 over years industry experience, Artie is well equipped for the role. Previous jobs include being a self-employed Safety Consultant, working as the Health & Safety Officer and Chief Medical Officer at AFFCO (South Pacific Meats) and various other H&S roles across a variety of industries.



Don't count the days,
make each day count.



Artie Glen

QUALITY, HEALTH
& SAFETY MANAGER

Born and raised in Christchurch, the self-described “one-eyed Cantabrian” moved to Kerikeri in October 2024. In her downtime Artie enjoys fishing, walking, and gardening. She’s also into refurbishing old furniture and reckons she’s a dab hand with a sander and a drop saw. Artie describes her two adult children and whanau as her “health and wealth... they are the centre of my heart.”

Meet our new team members



Nathan Holt
VILLAGE MANAGER
(Grant's replacement)

The new Village Manager, **Nathan** has had a 4 week hand over with existing Village Manager, Grant Cochran (Grant's last day was 29 August).

Nathan Holt brings with him 20+ years of experience in the charity sector, specializing in resource and people management. He was born in the Midwestern United States (which explains his American twang). Nathan moved to New Zealand and has lived in Christchurch, Wellington, Auckland, Whangārei, and now Kerikeri. He has two teenage boys who live with their mother but spend most weekends with him here in Kerikeri. They enjoy making good food and doing creative things together.

Nathan is passionate about creating the best possible life for residents and the best possible working environment for staff and volunteers. The values of compassionate caring, family/whanau, guardianship, and continuous improvement are a great fit with Nathan's management style. He hopes to carry on the great work done by Grant, and bring value to the great team, great culture, and great residents of the Kerikeri Retirement Village.

Volunteer Quiz Night

EVERY JULY we celebrate our amazing volunteers with a Cheese, Wine and Quiz evening—a warm blend of fun, camaraderie, and friendly rivalry among the teams. It's also a great chance for new volunteers to connect with seasoned helpers and the Diversional Therapy team. Our Quiz Master, Chris O'Brien, kept the room lively with wit and jokes, including questions about the retirement village that sparked plenty of banter. The drinks selection, both alcoholic and non-alcoholic, paired beautifully with generous platters of cheeses, dips, fruit and crackers. It's a pleasure to give back to the volunteers who support us throughout the year.



Companionship is the secret to laughter

The Village offers a **companionship service** that goes beyond standard care, designed for residents who need extra TLC. It focuses on meaningful one-on-one time to support emotional, social, and physical well-being.

Companionship is about connection — relaxing massages, peaceful walks, beach or scenic visits, coffee outings, and engaging moments that help residents feel seen and valued.

Recycling – Wellness Programme

It's great when our community helps shape us. **Anouk Van Donzel**, Environmental Educator, joined to support our **Wellness Programme** with Kerikeri recycling updates and to share resources on composting and worm farming. We discussed reducing household waste, what you can recycle (and the fact that coloured PET #1 is no longer recyclable), and noted the new kerbside recycling provider. We agreed packaging reduction should come first, with composting as a key waste-cutting method. Cold composting, worm farming, vermicast, and worm tea were covered. Great turnout across departments, with New World vouchers as spot prizes.

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