

# Village Times



Hilary Sumpter - Chief Executive

## Welcome...

Recently I've completed my first full year at Kerikeri Retirement Village and what a year it's been. Personally it has been a massive year of change; of town, of house, of job and into a new sector.

I can categorically say it's been a really enjoyable 12 months and whilst tiring for me, I have just loved it. It's been a joy to get to know our residents and staff and I'm really grateful for the warmth and support I have had from everyone.

We are a community in the Village and the Board and myself are determined it stays that way. What we have here at the Village is special; we're a values based organisation who care about people and our wider whanau.

We have growth and change ahead but we will always be working to keep values and people at the forefront of what we do. Growth is necessary to not only enable others to become part of our broad family, but also to allow us to maintain our care facility and services.

We'll also be working hard to maintain our reputation for quality care. Like all rest homes and aged residential care facilities in NZ, we are audited to ensure we provide safe, appropriate care for our residents and that we meet the standards set out in the Health and Disability Services (Safety) Act 2001.

The audit covers all aspects of operation, from the standard of clinical care, documentation and record keeping, right through to the quality of food and cleaning services. Depending on the findings, rest home certification can be extended from two to four years. Most extensions are given for three years and come with a list of improvements required.

We knew that we had passed our recent audit with flying colours and, for the first time, they hadn't noted a single corrective action but we have only just heard that we have achieved a four year certification. That's an outstanding achievement and reflects how hard our team works. Thank you all for your efforts, you can be truly proud of this result.

Thanks also to everyone who gave us feedback recently on the proposed apartment block at 127 Kerikeri Road. We have generally received a really positive response and we're already fielding inquiries about purchasing licenses.

In other news, it is with sadness we acknowledge the passing of resident Ray Tait who was recently awarded a medal by the French Government for his efforts during the war (see page 5 for details). It was a privilege to care for Ray, a true gentleman and hero.

▼ *There was some quiet celebration on hearing that we achieved a four year Certification.*



## SPCA Outreach

SPCA Outreach runs a Pet Therapy program and visit regularly with their specially trained and approved dogs.

As a pet friendly village we know how much joy they bring to our seniors and the Outreach program is a great way for those unable to care for a pet, to enjoy some animal companionship.



## Welcome to ...



Alison Panckhurst.



Beryl Little.



Jonquil Cunningham.



Lorna Harvey.



Ray and Gay Leonard.

## America's Cup



During the final week of racing, our residents gathered to take this photo which was sent to Blair Tuke and Team New Zealand to wish them well.

Our residents were thrilled when Blair stopped in recently to thank them for their support and share his experiences of the campaign.



## Construction Of New Apartments



We have completed consultation with our residents, our Statutory Supervisor, and others within the wider community about plans to build retirement and lifestyle apartments at 127 Kerikeri Road (the former Enz of the Earth property).



The two-storey apartment complex includes 30 one and two-bedroom apartments, plus three larger 'premium' two-bedroom units. The consultation process lasted for several weeks. All input was considered by the Board and several suggestions around accessibility, parking and care were incorporated into the design.

Construction will start towards the end of November and will take place in two stages; with the first 14 apartments ready for occupation by October 2018, and the balance completed by 2019.

The project has been financially modelled by a professional project management firm, and

the financial model is based on a market assessment of pricing.

The apartments will help us stay abreast with developments in retirement living and aged care, ensuring that our Village remains relevant and competitive in the face of increased competition from other service providers.

## Ballroom Dancing

Les and Judy Remnant are always welcome visitors at the Village.

Once or twice a year they pop in to do a ballroom dancing demonstration which is peppered with humorous asides.

Audience participation is always encouraged and enjoyed, with some being impressively light on their feet.



## Laundry Tagging



My name is Dawn and I work in the laundry here at the Village. I'd like to give you some insight into the procedures we have in place to ensure our laundry service runs smoothly.

Whether they're staying for a short period or moving in permanently, we ask that all residents coming into the village have their names on every item of clothing prior to arrival, as our tagging and logging system can take up to a week and a half to complete.

On arrival, I will bring two white net bags to the resident's room for dirty laundry, together with a notice advising that the tagging system is about to start. This lets everyone know that no clothes are to be washed off site until the tagging process is finished.

Then we send half of the resident's clean clothes to Klean n Press laundry where they attach a small plastic tag inside each item. Each tag has a unique code and their staff enter the owner's details and a description of that garment into their system. We repeat the process until all of that person's clothes are tagged. The laundry retains a summary of that person's entire wardrobe and a copy is sent to us at the Village.

To ensure that the list is always current, please give any clothes that are no longer needed i.e. too big or small, damaged etc. to a member of staff for de-tagging and removal from the system.

It's also important that any new clothing is tagged and logged, including items of clothing received as gifts.

By doing all of this we can accurately identify ownership of every piece of clothing in the Care Facility - no mean feat in a facility of our size!

## Maera Entertains



Maera Peters gave a short concert enjoyed by residents and our regular visitors, the children of Nurture by Nature daycare.

## Kerikeri Plunket



Every fortnight we enjoy a visit from the Kerikeri Plunket group. Our residents love to see the babies' development and it's a good chance to reminisce about their own families.

## France Honours War Veteran

ABRIDGED STORY BY PETER DE GRAAF OF NORTHERN ADVOCATE

Until his recent passing in August, Ray Tait, 94, was one of Northland's last surviving World War II veterans. In June of this year, he was thrilled to be awarded France's highest honour for his part in liberating the country from Nazi occupation in June of his year, when he was made a Chevalier (Knight) in the Legion d'honneur (Legion of Honour) in a ceremony at Auckland's MOTAT Museum.

The award is restricted to French nationals but can be awarded to foreign citizens who have served France or its ideals.

The medal was presented by honorary French consul Etienne Moly under the wing of a Lancaster bomber, the same type of aircraft Mr Tait navigated in 36 perilous missions over occupied Europe. Mr Tait, who lived at Tapeka Pt in Russell until a few months ago, said he was surprised and "very honoured".

Hamilton-born Raymond Sinclair Tait joined the Air Force as soon as he turned 18. He was sent to Canada where he hoped to train as a pilot but his ability in maths meant he was trained as a navigator instead.

Once in England he was posted to 75 (NZ) Squadron, part of RAF Bomber Command. Aged just 20, he was a lead navigator tasked with guiding formations of bombers across Europe to hit oil refineries and factories in the Ruhr Valley, Germany's industrial heartland, and back to England - if they survived the anti-aircraft fire and attacks by fighter planes.

Mr Tait became known for his cool head and ability to keep calculating a course while under

attack. The pilot was another young Kiwi, Martin Kilpatrick from Taranaki, also exceptionally composed under fire. Their English gunners were just 18 and the bomber was 31.

Together the two Kiwis flew 36 operations or "ops". Airmen were usually shifted to other duties if they survived 30 ops; more than half of Bomber Command did not live to see the end of the war.

On two occasions two of the four engines on Mr Tait's Lancaster were shot out but they somehow managed to limp back to England, weaving through anti-aircraft fire all the way.

The young Ray left New Zealand never having kissed a girl or got drunk. That soon changed but he said, "I have so many different stories I wouldn't tell".

One story he did tell was of the time he "got the trots" before an op. He had to go to the toilet at 30,000 feet and was on the can when a Messerschmitt attacked, forcing the pilot to throw the bomber into a corkscrew dive to escape.

Mr Tait attributed his resourcefulness and composure during the war to a "marvellous childhood" in which he was allowed to roam freely and seek out adventure on the banks of the Waikato River.

When he returned home at 21 he bought a block of scrub at Putaruru and set about turning it into farmland, living in what was at first little more than a shack. He met wife Keitha at the first dance he went to. They were married for 70 years and raised two children, John (now living in Tokoroa) and Jenny (Maungaturoto).



Young airman: Ray Tait in early 1945.

In 1978 the couple moved to Tapeka Pt to indulge their love of sailing. They would spend weeks at a time sailing the Northland coast; when on land they put great effort into replanting the then treeless point. Mr Tait was also a lay minister at Russell's Christ Church.

He believed war to be totally unnecessary. His view was "Life is for living. Take the most out of it you can."

Mr Tait's other decorations included a Distinguished Flying Cross from the RAF for "acts of valour, courage or devotion to duty whilst flying in active operations against the enemy".

Highest honour: Northland war veteran Ray Tait receives the Legion of Honour from French consul Etienne Moly. PHOTO/NZ Bomber Command Association





## 102 Years Young

Wine and cake and happiness were in abundance on June 12<sup>th</sup> as Doris Robertson celebrated her 102<sup>nd</sup> birthday here at the Village with friends, family and staff. Doris is pictured here with four generations of her family.

*FROM LEFT, REAR: daughter Noreen Vegea, son Douglas Robertson, and daughters Lynette Wheeler and Jenny Calder. FROM LEFT, FRONT: grand-daughter Tracey Wheeler, great-grand-daughter Elsie Wheeler, sister Phyllis Stone (also a Kerikeri Retirement Village resident), Doris Robertson and grand-daughter Leigh Wichman.*

## Alzheimers Memory Walk

**SATURDAY 23<sup>RD</sup> SEPTEMBER - FROM NOON AT KERIKERI DOMAIN**

Join the annual Alzheimers Northland Memory Walk on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> September. The walk helps raise awareness of dementia and allows participants to remember those affected by dementia.

Be at the Kerikeri Domain, by the library, at noon. There will also be activities for the kids, T-shirts, balloons, music, a spot prize for the best purple outfit and some refreshments.

Participants can choose between a short or long walk.

Register online at <http://memorywalk2017.gofundraise.co.nz>

## Winter Games

We recently held our Annual Winter Games and were joined by residents from the Whangaroa, Bay Care, Kaikohe and Rawene Resthomes for an afternoon of friendly rivalry and sports.

Nobody is quite sure who won the table tennis but we triumphed in the indoor bowls competition and now hold a rather eye catching trophy which bears the inscription 'Dying to live not living to die'.



## DIARY DATES

### AFTERNOON MOVIE 'WINTER AT WESBETH'

Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> Sept | 2.30pm  
In the Social Centre.

### INVESTMENT SEMINAR

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> Sept | 10-11am  
Hosted by Bruce Mathieson of Craig's Investment.  
In the Social Centre. All welcome.

### BUSTRIIP TO RAINBOW FALLS MINIGOLF

Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> Sept | 10.30am  
Bus leaves reception 10.30am.

### COMMUNITY DINNER

Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> Oct | 5.30pm  
In the Social Centre.

### ATTORNEY SEMINAR

Friday 20<sup>th</sup> Oct | 10-11am  
Hosted by Richard Ayton of Law North.  
In the Social Centre. All welcome.

### SENIOR SAFETY SEMINAR

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> Nov | 10-11am  
Hosted by Kerikeri Police.  
In the Social Centre. All welcome.