

Welcome

Winter 2026

Kia ora everyone

As winter settles in, CHT St Johns has taken on a different kind of beauty. While the trees have shed their autumn leaves, our gardens remain a peaceful place to enjoy a stroll, with crisp mornings giving way to bright winter days. Thanks to the care and dedication of Jeanette, our much-valued gardener, the grounds continue to provide a welcoming setting for residents and visitors alike.

Inside, there's been plenty to keep everyone active, connected and smiling. From outings and entertainment to shared activities and everyday moments together, the past few months have been filled with opportunities to enjoy each other's company.

Winter reminder

As we move through winter, please help protect our residents by postponing your visit if you're unwell, practising good hand hygiene and following any guidance from our team. Thank you for helping keep our communities safe.

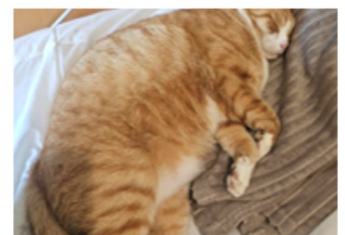
Activities and Celebrations

**New faces, familiar favourites**

There's been plenty happening on the four-legged front at St Johns.

We've welcomed Budgie, a playful new feathered friend who has quickly made himself at home in the Suite 11 lounge. Residents, families and visitors have all enjoyed getting to know him, and his cheerful chirping has already become part of daily life.

Meanwhile, our much-loved care home cat Bentley continues to keep a watchful eye over Suite 7. Following some advice from the vet, Bentley is now on a healthier diet and exercise plan after becoming just a little too fond of extra treats. We're all cheering him on.

**Farewell, April**

At the end of June, we farewelled Nurse April as she relocated to support her work and personal commitments. April was affectionately known as our "pocket rocket" for her energy, enthusiasm, and ability to be everywhere for everyone when needed. We sincerely thank her for her contribution and wish her every success and happiness for the future.

Congratulations, Elsa

We're delighted to welcome Nurse Elsa into a full-time role. She has also begun the InterRAI Assessor course, continuing her commitment to delivering the best possible care for our residents.

Improvements and Initiatives

Care home upgrade project

Residents will soon benefit from a major upgrade project that is now underway across St Johns and is expected to be completed by September.

The project includes new flooring throughout the care home and the replacement of boilers across several suites, with installation of the new boilers and flue system taking place this month.

New carpet and vinyl flooring have already been installed in one suite, where the refreshed space has been warmly received by residents and staff. The remaining areas will be upgraded over the coming months.

Reception refresh

Our reception area is also being updated with a new desk and improved layout, creating a more welcoming and functional space for residents, families and visitors.

Resident Story: Meet Denny

Originally from Scotland, Denny has always had a sense of adventure. After travelling widely and living in France, she followed her passion for winemaking, becoming co-founder of Desert Heart Estate in Bannockburn, Central Otago, alongside her father, James Smith, in 1999.

Over the years, Denny helped manage the vineyard using organic and sustainable practices, producing award-winning wines, including Pinot Noir. She also worked as an Economic Development Manager, supporting others to start and grow their own businesses, and has always enjoyed sharing her knowledge and experience.



Asked what she loves most about living at St Johns, Denny's answer was beautifully simple:

"I love them, that's all."

Note from the Care Home Manager

A heartfelt thank you to our residents, families, whānau and visitors for the time, kindness and support you bring to St Johns. To the wonderful team who care for our residents, prepare delicious meals, keep our care home looking its best, and support us every day, thank you for your dedication and commitment.

Life at St Johns is never quite the same from one day to the next, and that's part of what makes our community so special. As we settle into winter, I encourage you to take a look through our activities programme and winter menu, and if you have the opportunity, stay awhile and join us for a meal, an activity or some entertainment.

Warm regards,

Jenny Vollmer
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