

Welcome Note

Winter 2023

It is fantastic to see the heads of daffodils poking through the sodden earth and bringing some cheer to what have been some very gloomy days. We have brought the outside in at CHT Onewa, bar the incessant rain, and created terrariums with budding geraniums, which will help remind us that there is another colour other than the grey of our Auckland skies or the brilliant yellow of the diggers reinstating lost soil. Recently I was reminded of a children's story, "The Bigger, Bigger, Digger", as a small blue digger came on to the slipped section behind my house, followed by a bigger yellow digger and an even bigger orange digger!

Activities and Celebrations

Carnival Day at Onewa



Recently, we held a carnival at CHT Onewa with psychedelic clowns, balloons, bunting and buffoonery and a variety of games to test the prowess of our residents.

We also held wheelchair races to test the ability of our staff, who were clutching at their seats in an attempt to remain stable as their competitive colleagues vied for the winning position and displayed a variety of driving techniques.

We had a lovely entertainer, Johnny Angel, visit and with his singing charm some priceless smiles onto the faces of both ladies and gents, smoothing away some of the facial character lines of old.

Brian accompanying Johnny Angel



His attention to every individual was heart-warming and enlightening and brought residents to their feet, especially Anne, whose hip swinging would put Elvis's to shame.

Johnny Angel singing to Norma



Improvements and Initiatives

The installation of the kitchenette in Kendalls' Bay is now complete and makes the area a more inviting quiet space for people to retreat to when wanting to have quiet conversation with others, or to just sit and contemplate.

Lighting has improved with the installation of LED lights throughout the corridors and we have had new lino installed in the bathroom area in Little Shoal Bay.

Resident Stories

Harry Martin-Levorsen was born in Wellington to a pair who met as school teachers, fell in love, married and begat five children. Harry has walked the length and breadth of New Zealand from Cape Reinga to South Cape, Stewart Island. He had three ferry rides - across the Hokianga harbour to Rawene, across Cook Strait from Wellington to Picton and from Bluff to Stewart Island via the Foveaux Strait. Having gone from the north of New Zealand to the far south, he then went from west to east, crossing from Cape Kidnappers to Cape Egmont. This 25-day walk took Harry through the Kaweka and Kaimanawa forests, Tongariro and Egmont National Parks and the Wanganui Forest Park. Harry later bought a pushbike and repeated the journeys.

Harry worked at for the Ministry of Works at Tekapo in the hydro-construction of the Upper Waitaki. There he joined the aero club, attained a private pilot's licence and flew a few hundred hours through New Zealand skies. Harry also sky jumped, completing over 12 and a half hours of free fall time and becoming the New Zealand National Champion in 1967. Later he sailed the New Zealand waters and thus had seen the country by land, sea and air. What remarkable feats.

Harry Martin-Levorsen in his sky diving days



Hugh Martin-Levorsen, with a corner of Richmond at bottom right of pic, nears the photographer

Note from Unit Manager

Aged care will never cease to be rewarding. From seeing smiles on faces that bring a shine back in eyes clouded by cataracts to hearing of the magnificent achievements and life stories of our residents there can be no greater wealth.

May we continue to honour those who have contributed so much richness to our society and who will continue to do so until their lights totally fade. Many come and go at CHT Onewa, but all leave an impression, teach life lessons and engender compassion and caring.

Best Wishes
Unit Manager,
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