

Address: 52 Beach Road, Te Atatu 0610 Phone: (09) 834 4963 Fax: (09) 834 4980 Email: stmargarets@cht.co.nz

Welcome Note

Winter 2023

Welcome to the Winter newsletter. I can't believe that more than half of the year has passed already and although this time the cold season was not as bad as last year's, the need to keep residents protected and safe remains the top priority. Previously, residents were offered their flu and COVID-19 vaccination for the same reason.

While the threat of these and other nasties remain, I am grateful to all the staff, families and visitors for remaining vigilant and for not coming into the care home when sick. This remains our best safeguard to preventing the spread of viruses.

Activities and Celebrations

In June we celebrated Mid-Winter by having special lunch that was enjoyed by residents, family and staff. Residents were also serenaded by entertainers Steve Tulloch and Megan Johnston, with Christmas tunes.

We also celebrated Healthcare Assistant Day by having shared cultural lunch and some fun games.

In July, the much anticipated annual CHT Games took place during a week long celebration. Residents competed against other suites in various games such Indoor Bowls, Balls in the Holes and Quizzard of Oz. Winners were awarded with trophies, medals and some chocolate treats.

Celebrating Matariki, residents were invited to watch the Matariki Concert that took place in the local community centre, which West Auckland schools participated in. A Matariki-themed bingo was also organised and residents got to polish their knowledge of Māori words and phrases during the game.

The local librarians visited for a Matariki-themed discussion and sing-along with the residents.

They were also given the opportunity to watch FIFA Women's World Cup 2023 via Sky Sport. The residents enjoyed watching the game, making sure to root for New Zealand all the way. The facility was also adorned with FIFA-inspired decorations.

Mid-winter celebration where residents sang and clapped to some Christmas music



Staff and residents having fun and dancing to the music during the CHT Games



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Improvements and Initiatives

Waimanu Bay set up for the opening ceremony



The renovation of Chapman Strand and Waimanu Bay (the suites affected in the flooding early this year) came to completion and was marked by an opening ceremony in June. It was attended by our local MP, CHT Board members and CEO, as well as our own and staff from other CHT care homes and Te Whatu Ora. The residents in both suites joined in the celebration and enjoyed some afternoon tea after.

Resident Stories

Marlene Pamela Gard was born in the UK in 1933. She spent most of her childhood growing up during World War 2 and has many amazing stories to tell of that time. She watched spitfires fly overhead most days and

met German prisoners that her father was in charge of. She also got to meet Māori Battalion soldiers and one of them gifted her father a beautiful handmade spear. She arrived in New Zealand at the age of 16, along with her parents, Harry and Dorothy and five of her ten siblings in 1950, and settled with her family in Epsom. Moving to NZ was not something she envisioned at first, considering her great love for her beloved England. The move started with one of her brothers named Ted, who came to join the Royal NZ Navy, and instantly fell in love with the wonderful country as he described it. He ended up persuading their parents to leave everything behind in England.

She met her late husband Robert when she was in late 20s and fell in love with him in a heartbeat! Together they welcomed their first child Philip, followed by daughters Alexandra and Denise. She has made many wedding dresses and gowns for friends and family and kept a beautiful garden and had a great talent of growing beautiful Dahlias and Gladioli. She has learnt to paint beautifully and when asked if there is one thing, she wants to learn more, she eagerly answered "ballet".

Marlene Gard



Note from Unit Manager

Residents who were temporarily staying at other CHT care homes whilst we ensured our suites were put back to normal following the floods, have recently returned. Thank you for all your support through this time. We have also started taking in new admissions in the refurbished suites, so there will be a lot of new and fresh faces around.

Please stay tuned for upcoming events and activities lined up for the rest of the season that residents all seem to love and enjoy!

Best Wishes

Acting Unit Manager

Robin Moll

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