

MARCH 2021



Trish the hardware queen

Trish Dyson, resident at Wharekaka for the past two years, says she “fell in love with hardware” when she and her husband owned a hardware shop on the Gold Coast. They lived in Australia for 28 years, having moved there on a whim, arriving with nowhere to live and no jobs.

Trish said the move was scary but exciting. Husband Pat was in the Army and had visited Australia with a water polo team. He loved it so much he came home and asked Trish if she’d like an adventure. She happily agreed and off they went, leaving behind very good jobs – Pat in the Army, and Trish being responsible for producing the NZ Stud Book, a job she held for 21 years.

Married for 57 years, Trish and Pat had four children. They met through Trish’s brother, who

one day brought a couple of basketball-playing friends home. Pat was the quieter of the two, and had a beautiful Daimler car that Trish was very impressed with. Six months later they were married.

Trish was born in Wellington’s Island Bay and says she had the most wonderful childhood, a special memory being farm holidays in Martinborough. So it seemed a natural progression to settle in Martinborough when they returned from Australia.

Trish has a long connection with Wharekaka, as her mother lived here prior to her death, and Pat did also.

Trish very much misses her family and grandchildren who all live overseas, in the UK and Australia. She’s extremely proud of all of them, particularly her grandson who’s following in Pat’s footsteps and is currently training at Sandhurst to be an officer.

A doctor in the house

Congratulations to our wonderful Facilities Manager, Jenny Prentice, who has gained a PhD for her research into “Workplace Engagement of Caregivers in Aged Residential Care in NZ”. She presented her progress (pre-lockdown) to a conference at the Imperial College, London, and in September this year will present her now completed findings at an Age Concern/Association of Gerontology conference in Wellington.

Jenny’s study involved working with an advisory group of caregivers from Carter Court (Carterton). A model was developed which identified the factors that could increase productivity and quality of care at little cost, as well as improve workplace satisfaction for caregivers.

We’re very privileged to work with someone of Jenny’s calibre.



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Saris, outings & ice creams

We've been so lucky to have enjoyed a real range of activities over the past couple of months.

Thanks so much to Auxiliary member, Roberta Kimmins, who kindly brought her Sari collection in to show us. Some of the residents even got to dress up in these beautiful items of clothing!

We've had fun on our weekly drives with a highlight being enjoying an afternoon tea at Lake Ferry.

We're very active on the rest home quiz circuit and recently took our quizzing skills to Carter Court Rest Home in Carterton. We'll be hosting them here next month. Roseneath Rest Home (also from Carterton) are shortly coming to visit to listen to music with us, and enjoy a shared afternoon tea.

Our weekly Bowls game has become even more competitive as we now have a trophy to award to each week's winner.

We're staying comfortable in the warm weather with a great air conditioning unit and regular consumption of ice creams.

Thank you thank you

As always, we're extremely grateful for donations – not only the very generous cash donations we receive through the Oak Tree Community, but also for the useful goods that are given to us, and other fund-raising efforts.

We're absolutely delighted that our friends, the Martinborough Lions, have chosen Wharekaka as the recipient of proceeds from this year's [Skyline Challenge & Family Day](#). Whether you enjoy mountain-biking, running or a leisurely scenic walk, we urge you to join in.

Of course our marvellous Auxiliary's fund-raising enables us to purchase many of the things we couldn't otherwise afford (as per the article below), and we also receive gifts from other kind folk.

One such example is a chair that was kindly donated by a grateful recipient of our Meals on Wheels service. Thank you very much, it will be put to very good use.

Auxiliary in action

Auxiliary members got into gear early in the year, planning and preparing for the pop-up café they run in the Lions' Den at February's Martinborough Fair. This year's café was a record-breaker, with over \$2,500 made from sales of home baking and refreshments. The mouth-watering scent of freshly baked hot-from-the-oven scones drifted down the street, attracting a steady stream of hungry fair-goers. The café has become a haven from the busy-ness of the streets during the Fair. And the baking and service is exceptional of course! Thanks again to the Martinborough Lions for allowing our Auxiliary to use their premises.

The Auxiliary also very kindly provided financial assistance to allow us to complete our Emergency Water Tank project, which had stalled through lack of funding. We purchased and installed the tank, and the Council awarded us a grant towards completion of the project, but we were unable to secure further grants to allow us to fund the necessary filters, electrical work, pump, valves and fittings required to connect the tank. Thanks to the Auxiliary, we can now complete the work. We're so very lucky to have the Auxiliary to call on at times like this - thank you all very much.



Daisy models a sari.



Lovely day for an outing.

Oak Tree community

People who have a previous or recent connection with Wharekaka are currently being contacted with an invitation to contribute to the Oak Tree Community.

The initiative has been mentioned in this newsletter before and is now 'hitting the ground running'. The Oak Tree Community is a programme of regular giving to Wharekaka and we are deeply grateful to all who have contributed to date.

A small function to say thank you is being held in late March when our Patron, David Kershaw, will update donors on progress.