

JUNE 2021



## A life on the road

Ray Wilson has had itchy feet all his life. Born in Petone in 1940, Ray was one of five kids. Their Army dad went away to war and when he returned in 1945, he – like a lot of other returned servicemen – found it difficult to get a job he liked. So the family moved around the area, as work came up.

Ray developed a love for change. He says he was too busy moving around to get married. Although his ambition was to go round the world, he ultimately travelled so much around NZ and Australia, and made so many friends of different nationalities, that he feels he came close to it.

Ray is a man of many talents and had lots of different jobs. His first was at the BNZ in Upper Hutt and he worked his way up to teller before deciding to go to Australia. He remembers his grandfather, a

### *Auxiliary action*

As well as buying outright a much-needed bed for us (thank you again!), our amazing Auxiliary has been planning upcoming fund-raising events and producing a monthly entertainment for our residents.

Tickets were rapidly snapped up for a fund-raising Quiz night to be held on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> June at the Martinborough Golf Course. Planning is also well in hand for the annual Bridge & Mah Jong Tournament to be held this year on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> August at Brackenridge.

Each month, the Auxiliary produces a different type of local interest event for residents. Everyone was very interested in the display of bone carvings, the vintage car display was also popular, and Ed Allen was kind enough to come in and talk to residents and play his range of French horns. We were especially impressed when he also played a length of garden hose with a funnel in the end!

Scot, talking about mining and, although Ray never became a miner per se, he spent a lot of time underground working with the miners, the welders, the fire crews, etc. He loved the life and says he “spent countless happy hours playing cards in some very strange places.”

Gold, nickel, iron ore, enormous open coal mines (the size of the Hutt Valley), he worked in them all. And when he got fed up, he simply packed up the car and moved on, often returning to NZ, sometimes to another part of Australia. He reckons he’s driven across the Nullabor Plain at least a dozen times.

Ray had a Pacemaker fitted nearly 10 years ago – at the time he thought “this is it, I won’t last long now”, but is still going strong. He’s been at Wharekaka for around two years, and counts himself lucky to have family in the Wairarapa who he sees regularly.



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# Residents' activities

Residents who are able to love getting out and about on our weekly drives. We always find a nice spot where we can put out our deck chairs and enjoy a cuppa in the sun.

We had a great morning of exercise and dance with Rachael Howell and it was exciting to see a write up in the Dominion on her method. She will be visiting once a month from June.

It was wonderful to have the talented Mr Ed Allen performing on his antique and modern French horns. And thanks to Vicky Jones who held a concert for us.

We had such a fun afternoon with Zappo the magician, who was at his entertaining best.

On display in our lounge, we have an amazing tapestry made by Glynis Hansen - she is also going to display her mosaics and latest books.

We will shortly return to Roseneath see if we can reclaim the quiz trophy.



Ed makes music.



Zappo entertains.

## *Thank you Thelma*

Thelma Feist was a life-long Martinborough resident. Born in 1932, Thelma died last year and left an extremely generous bequest to Wharekaka, for which we were equally surprised and delighted.

Thelma grew up in Naples Street and worked at Pain & Kershaw all her working life. Music was her passion – she passed many exams for piano-playing - and she had a wide range of other interests too including stamp & coin collecting, gardening, indoor bowls, the Red Cross, and anything to do with nature.

Thelma moved in to Wharekaka in 2015. She suffered several illnesses and died in March 2020. She will long be very fondly remembered by all at Wharekaka.

Many thanks to Thelma's best friend, Joyce Hogg (who lives in one of our villas), for providing the background details about Thelma.

## *Lions donate Skyline proceeds*

On 24<sup>th</sup> of April the Martinborough Lions held their annual [Skyline Challenge & Family Day](#) on three historic Martinborough sheep stations: Huangarua, Oystershell and Puruatanga (now Martinborough Station). The Lions chose Wharekaka this year as the recipient of proceeds from the event, and we were beyond thrilled to receive the donation of \$7,000 which will be put towards repaving the back driveway and car park. Again, thank you so much to all Lions' members and to all the local contributors, supporters, volunteers and those who participated in the event.

The Challenge this year was more popular than ever, with over 300 entries. The courses catered for every skill level – from the challenging 32km, 16km or 8km ride or run, to the more sedate (though also challenging) 8km walk. There was also a 3km course for the under 12s. The weather was perfect, the views from the hilltops magnificent, and the BBQ afterwards was very welcome!

If you couldn't be at the event, but would like to add your donation, please click on [Skyline Challenge & Family Day](#) and use the "Donate now" button – we are always grateful for any amount.

## *Community Day Activities*

We are delighted to now be offering a day activity service to the community.

Every Tuesday from 9am-3pm at the Lions' Den, we welcome older people to join in our quizzes, exercises, cards, board games and other activities. We provide morning tea, a hot lunch, and afternoon tea.

The cost is funded by FOCUS at Wairarapa DHB, or privately. We are extremely grateful to the Lions Club for their support.

Please contact us for further information, or call in and see us any Tuesday at the Lions' Den.