

SEPTEMBER 2021



Wharekaka Elder Care Community

As we write, Wharekaka is in full level 4 lockdown and will remain so during level 3 as this is the wisest path for aged care.

Right now things are running very well - we're all used to this routine. The home is quiet and calm which is welcomed by several of our residents. There are lots of phone calls and chats with friends and relatives - through the windows for some! Meanwhile activities for residents, led by Maggie, flourish uninterrupted.

Don and Maddie, our cooks, continue to turn out wonderful meals, including over 700 per month delivered via Meals on Wheels, which carries on throughout lockdown. In fact they produced 812 in the month of August - an amazing effort!

Wairarapa's mobile Covid vaccination team visited Wharekaka in April and May to offer vaccinations for all

staff and residents. Residents who've arrived since then have enjoyed trips to Featherston in the Wharekaka mobility van for their Covid vaccinations.

Unfortunately we had to close our Tuesday community-based day programme during lockdown, but we keep in touch with attendees and hope to see them again as soon as we're permitted to re-start the programme.

Our Trust Board is continuing with board and committee meetings via Zoom. We were sorry to postpone our AGM - this will be re-scheduled as soon as we return to level 2.

And of course special thanks must go to all our staff who have, as always, been the most amazing essential workers.

## *We say bye to Di*

We wanted to pay a special tribute to Di Martin, who has resigned from the Auxiliary after 44 years of absolutely outstanding service.

Di had been an enthusiastic Auxiliary member for some years when she took on the responsibility of Auxiliary Chair. At that point, there were around 20 people on the Auxiliary (compared to 14 today). Di also sat on Wharekaka's Trust Board, but she preferred to be more hands-on.

Di said, "I've really loved helping where I can to make Wharekaka a fantastic place for residents. I strongly encourage anyone with a little bit of spare time to join the Auxiliary - our work is vital to the ongoing viability of Wharekaka."

Thank you so much Di for your long and valued service - we wish you well, and hope you will continue to visit us.



# Residents' activities

Although we're back in lockdown, most of our activities for residents continue unabated.

Everyone has loved the activities the Auxiliary put on prior to lockdown – the art exhibition, the High Tea, and the Japanese tea ceremony with Roberta and Helen was a particular favourite.

We've also had the usual array of musical events, with the Songbirds visiting from Masterton, and Ann and Ian, Paul Mason and Steve. We've certainly been very spoilt. Thanks also to Maddie for bringing in some gorgeous new little chicks.

Residents have stayed busy with the usual range of games and baking. And it's lovely to be able to watch spring wake up the garden from the lounge windows.

Everyone joined in the marvellous lunchtime celebration for Catherine's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday. Catherine looked like a queen in a beautiful outfit, including a fascinator, and with a very regal smile. Everyone sang happy birthday before the cork was popped on the zero-alcohol bubbles.

## *Handy Lachie*

Lachie Marshall recently joined our ranks to look after all Wharekaka maintenance needs, and we're delighted to have someone of his calibre.

Lachie was a Police Officer for 13 years in South Auckland before joining different companies in various operational management roles. He and his wife then trained as Salvation Army officers and were posted to Blenheim, back to Auckland, then to Wellington. In 2019 Lachie re-joined the Police in a civilian role, and was involved in supporting a number of national projects including both Firearms Buyback projects.

The role at Wharekaka attracted Lachie as it fits the type of work he's done before – and the 20 hours/week works perfectly with his tree and garden maintenance business.

## *Auxiliary activities*

Regrettably, for the second year, the COVID lockdown forced our Auxiliary to postpone (hopefully not cancel!) their Bridge & Mah Jong day – a major fundraiser for us. However, the Auxiliary always looks ahead and future fundraising plans are on track with another Quiz night on the cards when it's safe to do so. The previous Quiz raised a whopping \$2,617 so it's a very worthwhile exercise and a fun evening for all.

Before lockdown, as well as doing the Wednesday afternoon tea service, the Auxiliary produced some fabulous monthly activities for our residents. An exhibition of art created by Auxiliary member Christine Warner, was followed by High Tea the following month which saw the usual delectable array of baking by Auxiliary members. Then we had an incredibly interesting demonstration of a Japanese Tea Ceremony which all the residents thoroughly enjoyed, even if they didn't always like the taste!

The Auxiliary also provided funds for some much-needed items – a new linen trolley, an extra-long bed to suit taller residents and a portable steam-cleaner. As always we are in the Auxiliary's debt for all the funding they provide for us, all the activities they produce, their indefatigable support and thoughtfulness. Thank you all very much. The Auxiliary is looking for new members so if you'd like to join, please contact Carolyn Thompson at [thompsongang@xtra.co.nz](mailto:thompsongang@xtra.co.nz), or Helen Meehan at [helen.meehan@xtra.co.nz](mailto:helen.meehan@xtra.co.nz).



Peg and chirpy friend.



Catherine the birthday queen.

## *Thank you thank you!*

Throughout the year, we're really thrilled to receive a steady trickle of donations of varying amounts. Often these donations are the result of collections at funerals and some people have donated via our [Give-a-Little](#) page in memory of recently deceased residents.

Thanks also to [Union Square Bistro](#) who donated a portion of the proceeds from one of their weekly quizzes. Gratefully received!

We really appreciate all donations - size doesn't matter. It all counts and does make a real difference for our residents. If you're a donor, thank you so very much.