

WHANAU NEWS

CHALMERS HOME

October 2021

The Chalmers staff have been ensuring that life for the residents during L2 remains as active and busy as always!

A big treat this month was the music class from NPBHS who arrived outside the Recreation Room across the road on a specially created flat bed truck with all their instruments. The residents and staff were able to watch and enjoy the show from the recreation window. The boys provided a great show with music ranging from Credence Clearwater to the Happy Dance for the Kinderen daycare children who were watching and dancing on the footpath. Our Cook Pam provided all (including watching neighbors and any passers by) with large individually parceled chocolate chip cookies.

Pam is very passionate about her cooking and our Eden philosophies. She is now a regular feature entertaining the residents playing the piano on Thursdays during Happy Hour. She also takes the time to treat our very unwell hospitalized residents in TDHB to her home baking in a care package.

We are currently working around necessary construction with replacement pipework being accessed via the ceiling in Koromiko ceiling. The residents are being very patient and are taking it in their stride. For the duration of this construction work the Koromiko Dining room has transferred to the back half of the Recreation Room. The beautiful seaviews are being enjoyed at meal times.

Thank you again for all of your support for the staff and also for your understanding of the necessary visiting restrictions during this time. We appreciate you very much.

Jenny



Next Family Meeting

Date: 23rd November 2021

Time: 5.30 pm

Venue: Chalmers Home

Topic: To be confirmed

Tip of the Month

If you are writing a letter to an older person using your computer, use font with serifs like Times New Roman. Use 14 font or higher with 1.5 spacing. Align text to the left only. Use upper and lower case avoiding the use of all upper case. This will make it easier for them to read.

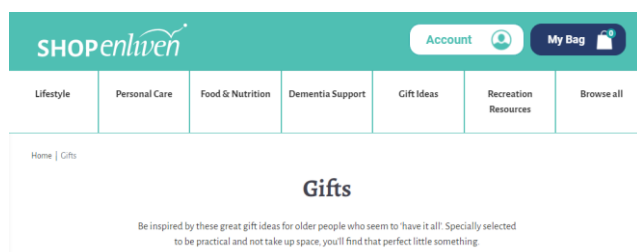
USING ALL UPPERCASE REMOVES THE SHAPES OF THE WORDS AND MAKES THE WORDS HARDER FOR THE READER WITH POOR VISION TO RECOGNISE. JUSTIFYING EACH LINE, MAKES IT MORE DIFFICULT TO WORK OUT WHICH LINE IS THE NEXT ONE TO READ.

Over the last few months Loretta, also known as 'Bear', has been darning and fixing blankets for a local day-care, Ruru House. The blankets are used to keep the children cosy and warm while they sleep. Bear has loved being able to devote her time to help the day-care. Ruru House is so appreciative and said the torn blankets would've had to be thrown out without Bear's skilled mending.



Gift idea:

- Large print books
- Large dial or lit face clock
- Jumbo playing cards



With Christmas on its way, keep an eye on Shop Enliven as we start to upload gift packs suitable for the older person.

You can save on shipping costs by having the gift shipped directly to an Enliven Home. Put PICKUP in the coupon box and the shipping cost will be removed. Please indicate in the notes section whether you will be picking up the gift or would like it labeled and given directly to your family member and on a specific day.

Eden Alternative™ Seedling

Principle five: Eliminating boredom through spontaneity

As people age and mobility diminishes, the range of activities can reduce. Days can become very similar and boredom often sets in. This can occur in one's own home and in an Enliven home. Creating spontaneous activities is one way to create interest and joy in someone's day.



Think about the type of surprises that might be appreciated by your family member. Ideas might include organising a visit from an old friend, taking them out to a café, skyping an overseas relative, a surprise visit from a grandchild or some flowers from your garden.



Pink October at Chalmers. Everyone dressed in pink to raise awareness about breast cancer. During this time we support and raise money to donate to the Taranaki Cancer Society.

We organised a very special high tea for the elders, and our lovely kitchen staff did an awesome job making pink cupcakes for everyone and very nice finger food.

All proceeds will be donated directly back to the Taranaki Cancer Society team on behalf of Chalmers Rest Home- the residents were very

happy to be able to contribute back to the community once again.



National Staffing Crises

You may be aware of news reports coming out about the staffing crises in Aged Care especially with Registered Nurses (RNs). For many years now, NZ Aged Care homes have been reliant on overseas trained RNs as NZ does not train enough for our needs. With the borders having been closed now for almost two years, RNs are becoming increasingly scarce. Unfortunately, like everyone else in Aged Care, Enliven is feeling the impact of this shortage.

What are we seeing as a result of the RN shortages?

Recruitment is taking up considerable manager time with about one in three people turning up for a booked interview and about one in two of those offered a position actually making it through the front door. We are currently waiting around nine months to get RNs into NZ from the UK, Philippines or India.

What else is having an impact on RN recruitment?

In addition, the shortage and very high cost of housing in Wellington is impacting on our ability to recruit staff into all the different roles for our Wellington homes as people move to cheaper regions or find jobs close to where they live.

We are expecting to see an imminent significant pay increase for DHB RNs that will impact on our ability to retain Enliven nurses and were devastated to hear the Minister of Health, Andrew Little, state publicly that it will take “some years” for money to flow through to Aged Care nurses.

What have we been doing?

Over the last few weeks, I have participated in the industry campaign for assistance by meeting with a representative from the Prime Minister’s office, speaking about the issue on National Radio, completing a survey for the NZ Aged Care Association on the RN shortage and - along with a Huntleigh Home resident - met with a representative from the Ministry of Health and one of the DHBs to voice our concerns about the pressure staff are under to maintain our standards of care.

We are hopeful that various government groups will come together to help us to stay afloat and keep our residents in the homes safe until borders open and people start to move freely around the world again. We need immigration, health and housing to work together to come up with a band aid solution as this is a multi-faceted issue and not one that any one group can deal with on their own.

Next year we are starting a CAP (Competency Assessment Programme) to assist overseas trained RNs to gain a NZ practising Certificate. Any CAP students we support will sign an agreement to work with us for two years.

These are tough times, but we want to assure you that our residents are our top priority, and always will be.

Enliven is responding to the staff shortages by matching existing resident numbers to the number of staff available. We now have several homes that are restricting admissions, especially in Wellington. When you throw annual leave and sick leave into the mix, there is now no fat in the system and you may notice there are less staff around.

We are desperately filling gaps with clinical nurse managers and home managers, but this is not sustainable!

Unfortunately this is a situation that will not get better quickly, so over the next few months there may be times when we are unable to staff shifts appropriately. This will impact on the amount of time we can spend with each resident or their families and call bells will take longer to be answered. We are looking at different ways to counter this, for instance by increasing our volunteer pool.

How can you help?

If you are able to offer any practical support to your Enliven home or can speak to your local MPs to help to raise the profile of the plight of Aged Care within the political arena, we would be grateful.

Ngā mihi
Nicola Turner, General
Manager Enliven



- Provide companionship
- To provide one to one interactions
- Gardening support people
- Lounge assistance
- Volunteers to assist with activities and crafts

Please call (06) 758 5190 and ask to speak to Eugenia or email
Eugenia.Llentilin@psc.org.nz

Job opportunities

We're also looking for dedicated and skills people to join our team in the following paid roles.

- Cleaner
- Health Care Assistant
- Registered Nurse

For more information visit:

<https://psc.qjumpers.co.nz/jobs/>

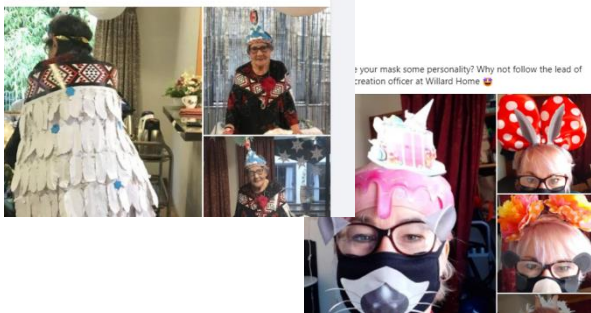


Enliven Central

@EnlivenCentralNZ - Retirement & Assisted Living Facility

Check out the Enliven Facebook page and see the wonderful things happening in Enliven Homes.

and she was an absolute natural in the parade." Annelize
see More



Volunteer

Do you know of someone who might be keen to donate some of their time? We are looking for volunteers to

Introducing our team

Name: Debbie Andrews

Position: Recreation officer

Debbie has taken over the position of recreation officer replacing Jonny who has headed back to the UK.



Born and lived in South Taranaki. Married and moved to Hong Kong and split time between Hong Kong and the USA for more than 20 years. Moved back to NZ to be closer to my parents. I have 3 adult children, 3 adult stepchildren and 6 grandchildren.

I have travelled extensively throughout the world, and have made many wonderful memories. Working many different types of jobs from teaching to restaurant and hotel management. I have spent the last 6 years with the cancer society and will continue to be part of their volunteer team.

I feel extremely blessed to now be part of the Enliven team. I am looking forward to meeting all the elders and making memories with you to cherish.

Some of our lovely ladies who have recently had birthdays.



On Friday the 1st of October we had the



pleasure of having our local New Plymouth Boys High School perform for our residents outside our home. Evan kindly got in touch with Zeal the local youth club and borrowed their trailer/performance platform. In the days before we delivered invitations to the neighbours and the two day cares on Buller street to invite them to listen to the performance.



We turned our residents to face the road and sea views in our recreation room. Pam from the kitchen made chocolate chip biscuits wrapped individually for the neighbours and



daycare children who came - which were greatly appreciated.



The boys did several musical pieces but the favourite of the day was Imagine - a cover of John Lenon. The residents were so appreciative of the performance and the time it took to organise - as performers are still not able to come into our home to perform in level 2.



Evan always goes out of his way to bring his students down to perform for our residents and we are so

appreciative.

