



Laura Fergusson Community Wellington April Newsletter



A perfect autumn day is when the sun is shining, the breeze is blowing, the birds are singing and the lawnmower is broken.

2009 has been and gone and we enjoyed another successful celebration of Christmas and the end of the year at Kaitoke Country Gardens for the staff, residents and families. We hope those of you who joined us, had an enjoyable time even though it rained for a short time...again!

The BBQ was cooked superbly, the Christmas Angel joined us for face painting, treasure hunting and gift giving with Santa Claus. Nigel Kennedy performed a roving magic show with the residents and followed up with a special performance for the children. A great fun day!



We did have to say goodbye to June Stewart who has been a long standing staff member in our community and will be sadly missed, although we know we will still see June from time to time.

We also said farewell to Sam who has moved to the South Island and we wish him all the best in his new adventures.

And more recently Maxine Martin, who after many years service resigned to take up similar work in the Wairarapa.

We wish all these people well and thank them for their contribution and service to the Trust.



Welcome to the Community:

We welcome Margaret, Andy and Pauline who have joined us at Laura Fergusson Trust Wellington.

This means we are now at full capacity once again with limited space available for respite care throughout the year.

We welcome these new members and hope they settle in well and feel comfortable in their new home.

MUSIC MUSIC

We are very happy to announce that the music therapy has started with Xinxin who studies at Wellington School of Music. Xinxin is working with residents in groups and individually.

The sounds and the energy levels are experiencing new highs and the reports back are really positive with the residents having a fabulous time and especially enjoying Xinxin's spirit and enthusiasm.

There has already been great progress by some individuals so we wait eagerly for more orchestral delights!



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Haiti Earthquake

Yet again mother nature has thrown her weight around and caused severe devastation in the small country of Haiti.

We never know when disaster like this strikes and it is always a reminder to be grateful for what we have and to be generous for those who have little.

The residents wanted to raise awareness and funds to support the people of Haiti and so we held a summer BBQ and raised \$340.00 which we sent through Oxfam.

The weather was kinder this BBQ and yet again our BBQ chefs were outstanding in the food quality department!



THE LAURA FERGUSSON ORCHID PAINTING

On the 29th of March The Ladies Auxiliary Committee hosted a Reception to say farewell to HE George Fergusson, The British High Commissioner and Mrs Margaret Fergusson.

The cocktail evening was held at Homewood, the British High Commission, and guests were honoured by the attendance of their Excellencies The Honourable Sir Anand Satyanand, GNZM, QSO and Lady Susan Satyanand, Patron Ladies Auxiliary.

For over two years the Ladies Auxiliary Committee have been working closely with Margaret Fergusson and renowned Royal Horticultural Society Gold Medallist (London 2008) Botanical Artist Sue Wickison who researched the history of the 'Fergusson Orchid'. This orchid was planted many years ago in New Zealand by Brigadier Sir Bernard Fergusson as a tribute to Lady Laura Fergusson.

The National Trust Board funded the project enabling Sue Wickison to complete a beautiful painting of the orchid.

A highlight of the farewell evening was the presentation by Lady Susan Satyanand of three large Special Edition Prints of the "Fergusson Orchid" to the CEO's of the three Laura Fergusson Trusts in Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch.

The original painting will be auctioned by the Ladies Auxiliary Wellington in aid of Laura Fergusson Trust at a later date. 300 limited edition prints along with 1,500 very attractive gift cards will be offered to each Laura Fergusson Trust for fundraising.

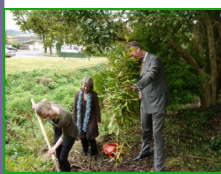


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Memorial Tree Planting Celebration A very special Afternoon Tea

In memory of Richard Morgan, Sue Merrilees and Chris De Veld who have passed away in the last couple of years we held a tree planting ceremony in the memorial garden. The families joined us and took part in planting a tree in their memory.



We were also very privileged to have present the Honorable George Fergusson, Lady Laura Fergusson and their daughter Alice who joined in and planted a tree in memory of their son/brother Alexander who passed away in England.



We experienced the emotion of the day when one member from each family member released a dove which was beautiful to watch. There were speeches of appreciation and thanks and we acknowledged Maxine and Linda who both completed the Foundation Skills Course of their Career Force training.



It was also a chance to farewell the Fergusson's who will be heading back to England in April as their term in New Zealand comes to an end. We offered a small gift of native New Zealand seedlings to take with them to the U.K and a hand carved Totara Plaque of the Wellington Laura Fergusson Buildings.



It was also a day to acknowledge the Fergusson family's long standing history with Wellington Laura Fergusson Wellington. We invited the family to turn the soil and plant a tree on the newly acquired land to the back of the property.

This was to symbolise the Fergusson's involvement across time since they were the first to turn the soil on what is now our existing property.

The day ended with a big surprise to all by releasing celebration balloons.



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Training and Development

As always the staff at Laura Fergusson Wellington are constantly up skilling. We have had staff attend First Aid training to ensure we always have First Aid trained staff on duty. There has been a visit for the residents and staff from the Health and Disability Commission to promote the rights of people with a disability and the process of accessing advocate help if needed.

Staff have also attended a workshop on Diabetes Training which is in line with increased need within our community.

Career Force training is ongoing and being well utilised by current staff.

Health and Disability Training

Sharon Downs from the Nationwide Health and Disability Advocacy Service has been on site for the 10th year running to talk to the residents and staff about how advocacy works, who is entitled to access it and how to do this.

Given it was the 10 year anniversary of having these workshops we celebrated with a small morning tea.



Sharon ran two workshops for the residents following a new structure in the form of real peoples life examples on DVD. The residents found this easy to follow and grasp the idea of how advocacy can be helpful. Sharon stops in between viewing to allow group discussion and explanation.

The same DVD was shown to the staff along with discussion and feedback on the presentation.

A note from the CEO.....

We are working towards residents having a garden plot on the new land until such time as it needs to be built on. The area has been sprayed and is waiting on a digger to turn and aerate the soil. It is hoped that volunteers will be found to help set up the residents individual garden plots and so far we have been impressed by the people who have agreed to take part.

For those in wheelchairs, who have wanted a plot, these will be achieved with raised gardens nearer their individual studios.

*If any readers have surplus garden tools they are able to donate we would be very grateful as the plan is to have each gardener equipped with their own set of tools.
Please clean out your garden sheds and see what you can find.*