



Laura Fergusson Community



Winter 2009

If we had no winter, the spring would not be so pleasant: if we did not sometimes taste of adversity, prosperity would not be so welcome.



As some of you may know in April we blessed the new land that has been acquired at the rear of Laura Fergusson. It was a beautiful spring day filled with lots of local support and community spirit.

Thank you to all who joined us on the day and especially those who were a part of the ceremony.

Rev Aranga, after the initial welcome, opened the ceremony with a prayer. David Ogden, the Mayor of Hutt City, Sue the CEO, & John Kennedy-Good the Board Chair all spoke and Nathan Dela Mare, one of our residents led the group in a Waiata.

The piper ended the ceremony by leading the group around the perimeter of the new land and back for morning tea.



ONE OF US

A tribute to Chris De Veld

I first met Chris about four years ago when he was thinking of coming to the Laura Fergusson Community for a period of respite care. He proudly introduced me to some amazing specimens of cacti and succulents which were both inside and outside the home. At this time Chris was still walking independently though he was having some pretty horrendous falls. As he was unable to stretch his arms forward Chris usually fell straight forward or back which often meant that his head was first to make contact. Chris always coped with these falls and often in fact better than the staff.

After a couple of periods of respite Chris came to live within the community. He was very much an active participant, and was never afraid to voice his opinion as to the way things could be done or make suggestions for changes. Chris was very focused, had very definite ideas and could be very persistent about what he felt was best for him. He and I had many discussions about the various pieces of equipment that may assist him to maintain his quality of life; but would Chris allow me to set the process in motion? ..NO WAY! He wanted to remain as independent as possible. When the powered chair finally arrived Chris had to concede that yes it was an asset and that it did give him the freedom to come and go particularly to the garden centre and to Bunnings. From then on Chris was always a starter for any walks in the local area and particularly enjoyed the Ladies Auxiliary annual walk to the American Ambassadors residence (picture right). The chair also allowed him to be part of the LFT holidays to both Christchurch and Napier which he thoroughly enjoyed.



Chris enjoyed brain gym on a Monday afternoon particularly the word games, lexicon, scrabble and his daily code cracker. He could be very creative in his ability to invent new words and new rules in order to gain the highest score, he was equally creative in his problem solving, using his art skills as well as the written word in order that staff were clear as to how he would like things to be done.

Despite concerns from the hazard quality circle about the safety aspects of having cacti in the garden, there are many as well as succulents that now feature in the gardens of Laura Fergusson.

So you will see, Chris, that you will not be forgotten. The memories of your contribution to the community, from being prepared to wear funny hats at various discos, your knowledge of cacti and succulents, your abilities with puzzles and quizzes and of course as another resident said to me...for being one of us.

by Don Manning



Laura Fergusson Community Newsletter



Congratulations Careerforce Success!

In June we celebrated another special occasion as Sue Day, Losa Falaniko, Rachel Stuart and Lorelle McClintock successfully completed their Careerforce Foundation Course. They each received a framed certificate a beautiful bunch of flowers at a small ceremony with the residents over lunch. Congratulations ladies on your hard work and success.



Ladies Auxiliary

Sue Thompson, Moira Lipshaw, Natalie Austing and Josie Faircloth attended the recent ladies auxiliary function. A mahjong and bridge day held at Margaret and George Fergusson's residence at Homewood Ave.

Thank you very much for the delicious lunch and the continual support to the Wellington Laura Fergusson Community given by all who attended.



Crusty Demons...

It has been a busy year so far with residents participating in various events around Wellington. Earlier in the year the 'Gentlemen' headed out for a night with the crusty demons at Westpac Stadium.



The guys had a great time enjoying the train ride in and out and dinner at the train station! We are sure there are more stories to tell from the outing but as one resident politely stated 'What goes on tour, stays on tour' ...so perhaps it is best left unsaid.



... and Wellington Round the Bays

Feb 20th 2009 - A large group of residents and staff participated in the Pelorus Trust Wellington Round the Bays. This year we were invited by Westpac and Halberg Trust to join a larger unified team. Sporting bright Red t-shirts we joined the swarm that ran, walked and wheeled its way around the 7km of bays to Hataitai park. The starter gun went off and that was the last we saw of some of our residents who met up with Westpac staff and took off being well taken care of.

Comings and Goings

As always LFT continues to be a busy place, Jimmy Kuch has left our community to move into a new house of his own. We have also said goodbye to Faye and Teresa who were both temporary members of the community. On a positive note we welcome Sam to the team. Sam spends his time working with some of our residents in their day programmes. He aides and encourages activity and contribution to local community such as Kapa Haka and enables their participation in life outside of Laura Fergusson. Jason and Nathan especially enjoy Sam's company.



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WHATS UP! DAY TO DAY AT OUR COMMUNITY

Many residents continue their regular activities.

The local bus card system has changed to match that of other greater wellington region buses and now have SNAPPER cards. This change has caused some frustration and anxiety and understandably will take some time to get used to the new system. The Trust has purchased a feeder in order to easily top up cards and see balance enquiries. Remember to swipe on AND off the bus.

Photographs have been taken in readiness for the *new ID cards* being supplied by the Wellington Regional Council that will eventually replace the pink mobility vouchers.

A *Wii* gaming station has been purchased for the Moston Lounge. This has proved to be very popular - with many residents enjoying ten pin bowling, baseball and tennis. There is talk of a residents versus staff challenge...staff will definitely be at a disadvantage not having had the opportunity to practice!

UPCOMING EVENT - Starlight Express

'The fastest show on earth - fuses state of the art technology with an electrifying soundtrack, dazzling sets, choreography and extreme sports stunts!'

...and some of the LFT community will be there to see it all. On 5th and 7th July we have 2 groups of staff and residents off to see this truly spectacular event.

Be sure to listen out for no doubt rave reviews upon their return.

AUDIT

MAINTENANCE

Rob Handyside



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