



Our Home



Warmest greetings from Junitha and Maja

Warmest Christmas greetings from our team here at Aberleigh Rest Home!

It's been a very busy few months since our last newsletter, especially in terms of welcome additions to our staff team. Having said farewell to George John as Clinical Manager, we welcome Junitha Samuel into this key role as clinical leader of our facility. Junitha has experience as a Registered Nurse in New Zealand and India, working on the West Coast and in Ashburton before moving to Blenheim. She has considerable experience in aged care and has also worked at the Nelson Marlborough DHB. We know you will join us in wishing her the very best as she taken on this new challenge.

We have also welcomed Donya Nee to our Diversional Therapy team. Donya has been a hands-on diversional therapist with Dementia Care NZ in Christchurch for 15 years, working closely with people who have dementia. She comes from an arts and wellness background with training in theatre and directing, holistic counselling, and with post graduate studies in community arts management and dance and movement therapy. Donya has also recently been certified as a Havening practitioner. She has a strong interest in the therapeutic benefits of all art mediums and incorporates this into her practice as a diversional therapist, employing humour and warmth, creativity and a passion for growing and cooking nourishing organic food.

Two new Registered Nurses started with us in August and we were also delighted to welcome eight highly qualified and experienced Registered Nurses from overseas to work as caregivers in senior Registered Nurse support roles. It is wonderful to see these new additions to our team settling in and becoming part of our Aberleigh community.

A full Certification Audit took place in June, which was our opportunity to showcase our quality systems and the care we provide. Following the successful audit we continue to provide health care services for a further period of three years. This is our first audit under the

new Ngā Paerewa Health & Disability Service Standard which came into effect in February this year. A copy of the audit report can be viewed on the MOH website under 'rest home audits'.

We would like to thank all those EPOAs who took the time to complete and return our recent survey. Your feedback is invaluable and so much appreciated. We will be collating the responses and raising Quality Improvements to address any issues identified. Please remember that any specific concerns which may arise from day to day should be addressed personally with us as soon as possible.

One of our main focuses here at Aberleigh is spending time with our residents in ways that enrich our days and provide fun, stimulation and socialisation. Special celebrations such as Mother's Day, Father's Day and Matariki were celebrated in our small homes, with residents with a special interest in arts and crafts supported to engage in craft projects to decorate the lounges.

Regular activities include chair-based group exercises, outdoor walking, pet therapy, fruit tasting, happy hour, baking, fruit salad making, indoor ball games, darts, van outings, one on one chats, music and singalongs. 'Ukes of Marlborough' and 'Castaway Ukulele' entertained our residents with their music and singing. Residents also enjoyed a magic show by Mike Mitchell, the Chaplin of Baptist Church, and a van outing to Havelock and back.

Activities team member Mary has been bringing in her dog Carter in on Saturdays, and has also been leading keyboard sessions and music-related activities on a weekly basis for residents to enjoy.

With the festive season around the corner our focus will be on Christmas arts and crafts as we celebrate this special time of year together. We welcome you all to visit us often during the summer months, and wish you all a very happy Christmas and a peaceful and prosperous New Year.

We do things differently, and it works.

December 2022

*We most warmly invite you to join us
for our*
Christmas Gathering
*on Thursday 15th December from
2.30-3.30 pm*



*Sandy from Bunnings Warehouse in Blenheim
put on a workshop recently, helping our
residents to create their own wooden utility
trays.*



*Gardening week at Aberleigh, getting
vegetables and flowers ready for the
summer season.*

Happy Christmas from Andrew Sheard

I always look forward to this time of year in our homes. The sounds of kids' chitter chatter as they visit their relatives, and the faces of residents, staff and families alike lighting up as they greet each other or prepare some food or a Christmas tree for celebrations. It is a time to focus on the people we love and care for most, and often that helps to put the worries and issues of the past year into perspective.

It is always a special time for my family as well. The sense of wonder, excitement and anticipation from our children makes the stresses of getting everything done at this time of year so worthwhile.

We've recently finished working on a new website and we'd love you to have a look. We're really proud of how it's looking as it reflects what's important to us – the people we care for, their families, our staff, the special times we have together, and most of all the freedom to be ourselves within the home. These are the things that make residents and their whānau feel truly at home.

We would like to thank all the residents and families who gave their permission for us to use their photos or the photos of their loved ones. We think the photos on the website reflect the people who make our homes special and we are very grateful that we're able to use them.

Please do let us know what you think and if there is anything else you'd like to see on the website, which you will find at <https://www.dementiacarenz.co.nz/>

As this is our last newsletter of the year. I would like to pay tribute to our staff teams.

I'm sure you will have heard the issues we have had in aged care with staff shortages in particular over the past year or so. This, combined with resident and staff illness from COVID-19 and other causes, has made it an incredibly challenging year.

We are very fortunate to have such great and loyal teams that have helped us to navigate through these challenges and continue to provide such loving care to residents.

Thank you all for your patience with COVID-19 closures and restrictions. We know it has been difficult with COVID-19 cases and our homes being closed at times while we have managed those cases.

It is not easy balancing the need to reduce transmission of COVID-19 with the need for you to see your loved one and their need to see you. We really appreciate you respecting our decisions around this and helping to keep our home as safe as possible.

All of these challenges make celebrating this time of year even more special and important.

I wish each and every one of you a very happy Christmas.