



Avonlea
CHRISTCHURCH

Our Home



A message from Armie and Brezel

Warmest greetings to you all as we welcome the warmth of summer and holidays!

It's been a challenging year with COVID revisiting the region again, but we have coped with this thanks to the hard work, commitment, resilience and unity of our amazing team here at Avonlea, with guidance from the Dementia Care NZ team and the wonderful support of our families.

We have welcomed six new staff members to our staff family recently, and continue to recruit highly qualified and experienced Registered Nurses from overseas as the shortage of local caregiving staff in New Zealand continues.

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.

Aroha residents are now happily settled back into their newly renovated lounge and kitchenette. They are enjoying the bright new environment and increased space, and have now found their own special spots to relax and enjoy. Thanks to all the staff who made the transition smooth and safe for everyone. We are all excited to follow the renovation progress of our dementia hospital home Hoa Pumau. Its completion in the coming weeks will welcome new residents and staff to join our Avonlea family.

Although Christchurch is known to have four seasons in a day, everyone is excited to see the days getting longer as we bid goodbye to winter. The more settled weather has brought the opportunity for our residents to go on outdoor adventures such as van outings,

relaxing or walking in the garden, and establishing our new veggie garden over at Pyaar (which means Love in Hindi).

Our residents enjoyed the now-traditional daffodil picking as a head start for spring. Fresh flowers were distributed and displayed all throughout the homes.

What could be more exciting than our very own Canterbury Cup and Show Day? Our fashionista residents and staff enjoyed primping and preening for this special day. Additionally, an ice cream truck visit to Avonlea took place recently to beat the heat of summer, with the added bonus of keeping everyone hydrated and their calcium levels up! It's good to be out and about with sunblock application as a must to protect both our residents and staff from any harmful UV radiation.

As the season has changed, our menu, carefully devised by our dietitian, has changed from winter to summer too! Lighter, more summery seasonal meals are being prepared by our talented cooks. Fresh home baking and desserts remain firm favourites with everyone. We always welcome you to join your loved one for a meal here at their home.

Are you ready for Christmas? It's just around the corner, and you can feel it in the air! Our menu is ready and the date is set for our family gathering, with the aroma of our super-tasty selection of Christmas food and the sparkle of beverages. We look forward to celebrating this special season of Christmas with you.

As we bid farewell to 2022, we would like to thank you for entrusting your loved ones to our care. We thank our residents and the families we are privileged to have as part of our Avonlea family. May this season fill you all with joy, your heart with love and your life with laughter. We wish you a joyous Christmas and a blessed New Year.

We do things differently, and it works.

December 2022

Happy Christmas from Andrew Sheard

*We most warmly invite you to join us
for our*

Christmas Gathering

*Awahi Whanau & Mahal
13th December 2:30pm-3.30pm
Pyaar, Aroha, Ofa & Rudo
16th December 2:30pm-3.30pm*



We just love it when the ice cream truck comes to Avonlea! Such a lovely treat to share together and a sign that summer is here.



At last the warmer weather is upon us and we have been making the absolute most of our lovely gardens and company at Avonlea!

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 adds magic to this busy time of year.

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.