

Bethsaida Bulletin

May 2023

It's been many months since I sat down and started another edition of the Bethsaida Bulletin. My intention had been to get one of these out each quarter but between settling into my new role, new town, buying a house and getting to know everyone, the time has slipped past. And here I am in my 9th month at Bethsaida and loving it.

It is such a pleasure spending time with the Residents and helping staff where I can. I have met many family members in the past months, so please do accept my apologies if I haven't seen you often and need to ask you to remind me of your name.

Blenheim is fast becoming our home and we are extremely happy here. The commute home is so quick, we are loving the change from the busyness of Christchurch. Weekends we spend getting to know Blenheim and what it has to offer and Sundays are usually spent at "church" (riding our Harley Davidsons as our friends refer to it 😊).

My husband Philip has recently started at Bethsaida in the newly developed role of Electrical Service Technician. This being his qualification, we are fortunate enough to have his skills and experience in repairing, servicing and maintaining our electrical equipment, hoists, hospital beds etc.

We have been busy over the past weeks preparing for our certification audit which was completed earlier this month. You may have noticed that there are Māori words to identify different rooms and areas around the facility and that our *Health and Disability Code Of Rights* posters are in both English and Te Reo. This is a relatively new requirement of the Health and Disability Sector Standards. I also try to make the effort to greet staff in their native language when possible.

Unfortunately COVID has hit our Residents and Staff hard again and we have launched straight into "Isolation mode". Staff are working tirelessly, following the infection control protocols and caring for our loved Residents and each other. We have had many Residents and staff affected which has put an added strain on the facility but the team is working well to get us through.



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Dom and Colleen looking on the bright side

This has also meant that we have had to cancel many of our special activity events that we had planned, due to wings being in isolation and staff being utilised for other tasks around the facility.

We are now very fortunate to have 11 Registered Nurses in our Team, with the most recent arrival being Mary Antonette who has joined us from Singapore. She is settling in well and has hit the ground running with orientation, certification audit and now COVID in the facility.

Staffing has been a great concern to many facilities in our industry and we have all been working hard to recruit the right people to care for our elderly and your loved ones. I have been working with Immigration since November 2022 and my efforts are finally being rewarded with 7 new staff having recently joined us and another 2 yet to arrive in New Zealand. We are very lucky to have them and encourage you to welcome the new faces you will see when you visit. For some of our new staff, this is the first time in New Zealand or away from their own country so it must be a very anxious time for them and anything we can do to make them feel more comfortable and at home will be appreciated I am sure. They all appear to be settling in well so far and are assets to our facility.

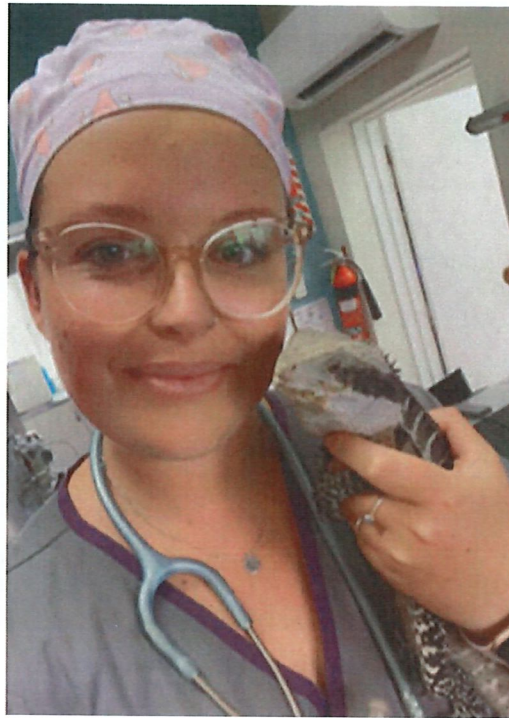
This month will see the visit of my Mum from New Plymouth where she lives in a Retirement Village. It will be her first visit to us since we moved to Blenheim so we are looking forward to showing her our new home and a little of Blenheim. We also have tickets to the Priscilla show coming up in Blenheim this month, so we are both looking forward to that.

We have had our daughter Maysha and granddaughter Ariana from Christchurch for a visit over Easter. It was really great to spend time with them. Unfortunately they are now both suffering from COVID for the first time.

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Maysha is training to be a Vet Nurse and is loving the work with the animals. She has even been lucky to meet some very interesting creatures.

Philip and I were thrilled to host a baby shower for Steph before she went on maternity leave and help celebrate Lexi's 4th birthday at the Grandeza house with a special cake I made for Miss Lexi. Baby Maxene Emily Grandeza was born on the 3rd April 2023 and is an absolute blessing for Steph, Evan and Lexi.



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Mostly recently was the pleasure of watching Stephanie become a New Zealand citizenship at the Council building last week and celebrating with dinner. A new member of our New Zealand team at last!



We have a fundraiser page for Breast Cancer Awareness if you wish to donate to our page. The link is as follows: <https://pinkribbonbreakfast.co.nz/page/bethsaidaretirementvillage> All proceeds go to Breast Cancer New Zealand.



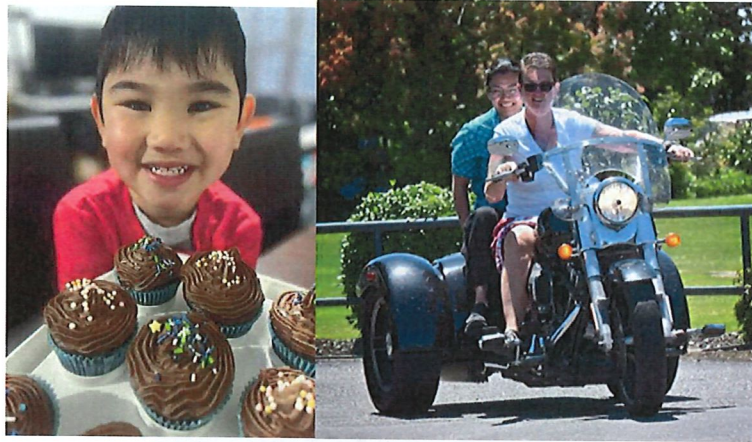
Blenheim Toyota have very kindly given us the loan of their Community van. We have a once a month booking where we are able to use it for the whole day. The first trip this month was to be to Nelson but with the atrocious weather that they were having on the day, an alternative was made and 9 Residents accompanied by 2 staff, had a lovely trip to The Store at Kekerengu for a lovely lunch. The Residents all had a wonderful time and look forward to the next trip in June.

Sadly we have farewelled some of our loved Residents which has been difficult for both staff and the other residents who have been their friends while living here. We send our thoughts and condolences to their families.

Take care everyone,
Kyla Hurley
Village Manager



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Sean enjoyed Kyla's homemade cupcakes while Mum Colleen had her first ride on a Harley



Sugar will get me through this, says Carol.

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Macey's Musings

My new life in Blenheim is going really well. I have made new friends with Alfie and Teddy and they come and stay some weekends when their Nan goes away. I thought I was a loud snorer, but boy you should hear Teddy!! He's even louder than Dad and I put together! We have a lot of fun and they help me feel young again....for a little while at least.



I've settled in to my new job at Bethsaida really well. I seem to be very popular with everyone and it is nice to get the attention. I love seeing the little children come and visit but a bit jealous cos Mum gives them a chocolate fish but not me!

There's a big Border Collie who visits who doesn't really pay me much attention but walks on into Mum's office like he owns the place and Mum makes a fuss of him. I get up on the couch and bark at him to get out of Mum's office and he just ignores me! I hope Mum isn't thinking of replacing me.

I'm certainly feeling my age these days, especially on the colder mornings. I sleep a lot more than I used to; just can't seem to find the same energy I had a while ago. Mum said that's because I am nearly 13 years old and I'm an old girl. The vet even has the cheek to call me a geriatric! My life is good though. I eat when I want, sleep when I want and don't have to do anything strenuous. I've noticed my hearing isn't what it used to be so I get a few frights, especially when I've been sleeping and someone approaches and I don't hear them until they are almost on top of me. This getting old business sure isn't for sissys.

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One of the family members made these beautiful Easter Egg dogs for the staff and Residents. What a clever lady; they look just like me!



Joan and her daughter Brenda

I haven't seen as many visitors this week because we have COVID in the facility. Mum has tried to explain what this is and to make sure I sanitise regularly and don't go into the wings where the COVID is. I sure am missing the visitors and especially the Residents who I love to see and always greet me with a pat and a welcome (and even the odd sneaky treat). Mum said we will be out of lockdown soon so it will be nice to get back to normal.

Well, time for a snooze in the sun now. Can't wait to see you all soon.

Love and licks from me,



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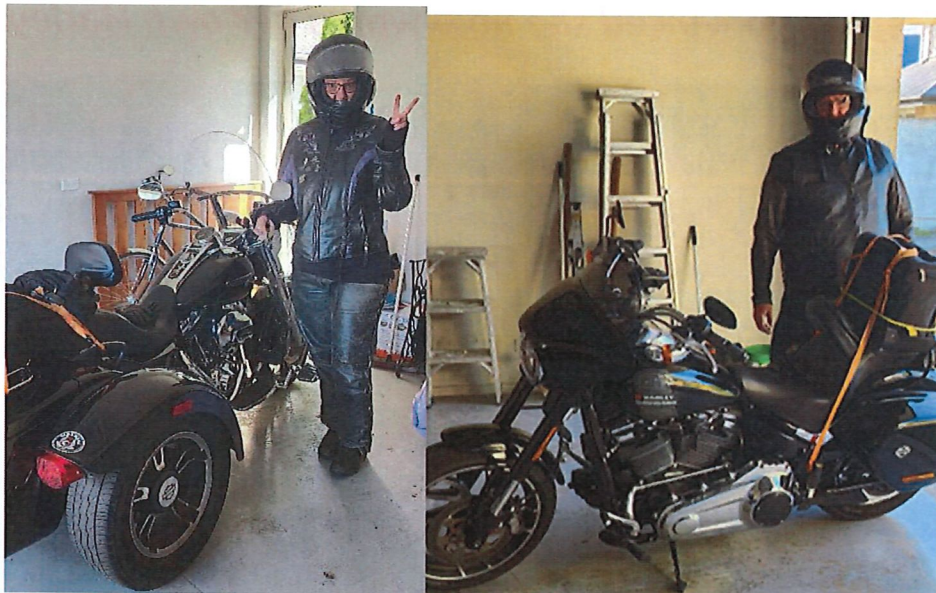


Steph is convinced she now wants her own Harley.



Welcome to the world beautiful Maxene Emily Grandeza ❤️

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Getting ready for our recent trip to Hanmer

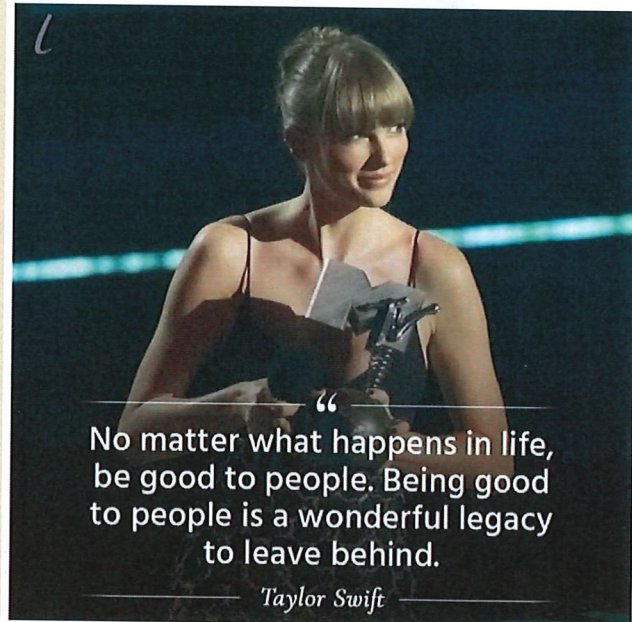
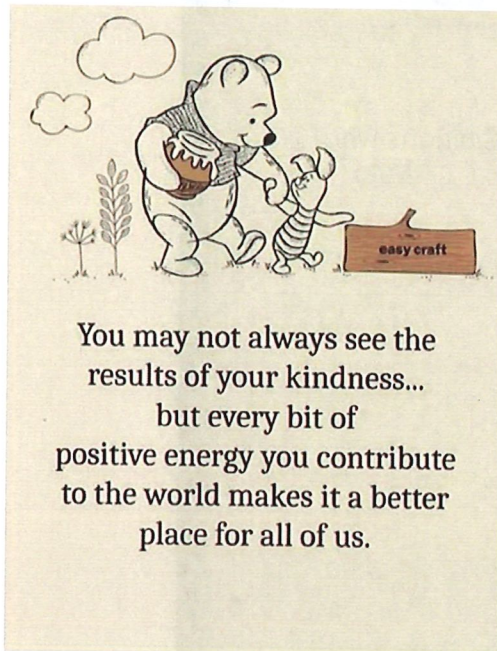
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Shout out to our Prime Minister Chris Hipkins for his recognition of our COVID response.



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I like to think



Until next time.....

Our 'Activities'

Hi to everyone, and welcome to another addition of our 'Newsletter, with this page especially dedicated to our 'Activities Department'.. It has been a busy year thus far, with a few changes coming into our programme. While we keep to those items that are loved and well attended, we are introducing some new activities to ensure that you, the residents, are offered something new and fresh as we move on throughout the year. One of our newest items is our Van Trips which will occur on a monthly basis, and will enable us to take nine individuals out on day trips. Most likely this will include some of our 'Villa Community', as well as a number of our residents....



Our 'Activities'

....We have now introduced some activities that take us further into the afternoon, so as to inject a little more entertainment, and variation into your day. All this you will find listed in your current Activities Programme.

....*entertainment* is also scheduled within our Programme, as well as the occasional

'High Teas' and various *'Themed Events'*...

Also, be sure to utilise our in house shop, for all those little extra items you may require...

Our door is always open....for anything, anytime!!

Dominique & Colleen

