Bethsaida
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November 2026

Kia ora Family, Whānau and Friends

As you may be aware, Stephanie has finished at Bethsaida and has decided to spend more time with her young family. We wish her all the very best and will no doubt see her around Blenheim.

I am thrilled to welcome and introduce our new Clinical Nurse Manager, Pravidha David. Pravidha has come to us with a wealth of knowledge and experience and we feel very fortunate to have her on our team and part of the Bethsaida family. As you can all imagine, there is much for her to learn as she settles into this new role and we will be doing everything we can to support her and make the transition a little less daunting.

Rosie Moran, one of our wonderful Registered Nurses, has been a huge support as Acting Clinical Nurse Manager and is helping Pravidha to navigate her new role. Rosie has been working closely with me, as well as leading the clinical and care teams. It has been a huge relief to have her alongside me during the changes that are occurring and I appreciate her loyalty and support. I am very appreciative of everyone who has been working to ensure Rosie is supported also. Thank you!

Pravidha will be supported not only by the team but also with the new role of Clinical Coordinator that we have introduced here. This role is being covered by Rosie as Acting Clinical Coordinator until the end of February 2027 when Meena will return from her maternity leave and take on the Clinical Coordinator role fulltime. This role will help to strengthen the Clinical team and support our group of dedicated nurses to ensure that our Residents are always receiving the highest of care here at Bethsaida.

A huge thank you to all of the staff here who are dedicated, loyal and kind. They are a true reflection of what is great about Bethsaida and it is a pleasure to lead this amazing team of people.

Other changes that we have made are the promotion of Liz to Administration Manager. She will form part of the Management and Leadership team and will cover many aspects of the facility when I am absent on leave. Lynn, Accounts Manager will also be involved in the Management and Leadership team and will be a support to the Administration role should Liz be on leave.

In the next couple of weeks, Lynn's office space will move to what is currently the Clinical Nurse Manager office in the Brian Kerridge wing. Lynn will share this space with the Clinical Coordinator.
Pravidha's office space will be in what is currently Lynn's office and is situated next to mine in the Reception area.

We have recently employed a second fulltime Gardener Ross. With Barry, Greg and Ross on the Grounds and Maintenance team, we have been able to improve the quality of the gardens and other outdoor areas. Greg now works 4 days a week so Barry takes care of any maintenance on Fridays. With the addition of "Mo", our new robotic mower, we are developing some improvements to the management of the lawns, giving Barry and Ross the ability to spend more time tending to the gardens instead of so much lawn mowing.

Our 5 new Villas on Gill Crescent are looking amazing and I am excited to see these finished early into the New Year. With 2 of these already having deposits on them and the remaining 3 gathering interest, I am confident that these will have new occupants soon after completion.

Once the new Villas have been completed, including the landscaping, we will begin the planning stages of a purpose built community room for the Villa Residents. This will enable them to have a space where they can gather in small or large groups, meeting for coffee, games, or just some company. We have asked the Villa Resident for their “wish lists” and have had an excellent list of wishes given to us.

Early next year we will be upgrading the internal courtyard. I have been working with the experts to make my vision for this space a reality. The area will become more inviting and able to be used more often with the addition of shade and seating being just some of the improvements. There will be scented plants and a water feature, giving the courtyard more of a sensory experience for those people who are hearing or visually impaired. Families will be able to enjoy lunch or a coffee outside in the sun or shade and Residents will be able to spend more time being safe from the hot rays of the sun. The new courtyard will have the name “Smaile” in the title, to acknowledge the generous donations that we receive annually and which will fund the upgrade of the outdoor area. Hopefully one of our Board members has a contact for one of the Smaile family so I can invite them to open the new courtyard on its completion.

As always, please don’t hesitate to contact us with any questions or concerns or just for a chat. If you have been one of those amazing people who has thanked us for something that we have done for your loved one, I encourage you to please post a review on our website and/or on Google. This will tell others what we do and why Bethsaida is the place many people want to be. With our wait list growing, it is humbling to hear people say that they only want to be at Bethsaida.

Lastly and by no means least, a massive thank you to the Board. As a great team of Volunteers we are very fortunate for the skills that they bring to us and for the hours of work they do both up front and in the background. Who said retirement would be quiet!!?? They are probably busier now than they were before! 😊

Until next time, take care, keep safe, be well and look after each other. We look forward to seeing you soon.

Warmest regards from Kyla