

TE WIREMU HOUSE CHAPLAINS REPORT 2015

We at Te Wiremu House are pleased to be in the finals of the 'Community Connections NZ aged care assn. excellent awards,' for our services to war veterans. Advocacy for war Veterans has seen an increase in their numbers and other Rest Homes and individuals ring Te Wiremu for veteran advocacy advice.

After winning the contract for providing a Geriatric Psychiatric unit worth \$41,000 from the Government, work for this unit in an unused wing of the dementia unit is well under way and expected to be opened in October. Last September Te Wiremu House also won the 'Emergency Respite' contract for the district, taking in people needing sudden placement. In another new development, plans for extending the number of hospital beds have been submitted to the council for approval.

This year the Arohaina Centre staff joined us for the Code of rights training which included the rights of gay residents. Other training this has included staff wellness health sessions with outside presenters covering topics such as 'Drink driving laws and you' and 'Drug awareness.' E.I.T nursing, social work, and caregiving Students join us for training. Our nurses continue to do further training in their own time, two of them finishing Expert status of the Portfolio programme and two up to the merit level. New Zealand Nurses day was celebrated with a lunch and well attended by local DHB staff and retired nurses.

At present we are at full occupancy, even after six deaths in July, and have needed to decline some potential residents. We have reached a level of 40% Maori residency who appreciate the monthly church service in Te Reo Maori taken by Rev. Jack Papuni. Our regular Communion services and Devotions services continue with input from other churches in the community.

Residents enjoy resistance exercises 3 times a week, for the prevention of falls and for those who have had strokes, taken by an outside trainer. These are always well attended. The Gisborne Museum continues to support us with photo exhibitions which are of interest to both residents and their families. This year Representatives from the Turkish community joined us for the Anzac day parade and 7 residents received commendations and medals on Armistice Day.

We continue to receive complements from residents, families and local Doctors for our level of care and the work continues to be a real pleasure.

Rev. Sheryl McGrory