

HBH Happenings

Sharing life and stories from our Homes, Care, Community, and Advocacy

November | December 2025



Christmas offers a moment to pause and notice what has shaped the year. At HBH, the Giving Tree became a clear symbol of care in action. Each tag represented a thoughtful gift, a shared moment, or a quiet act of generosity. Together, they reflected the values that guide our work every day.

The Giving Tree showed how much impact small gestures can have. It also reflected the way people across HBH continue to look out for one another, through time, kindness, and practical support. That spirit sits at the heart of our communities.



This year has not been without its challenges. Working in aged care remains demanding, and the pressures on the sector are well known. Recent government attention has been encouraging, particularly the active engagement with the sector on Case-Mix and Funding Reform, which HBH continues to contribute to. There is still a long way to go, including the need to replace outdated administrative systems that do not reflect the realities of care, but these steps signal progress.

Closer to home, the year has brought growth alongside challenge. Across the HBH group, significant work has taken place, with several large projects underway. Each one shares the same purpose: to strengthen the care, support, and experience we provide to residents and the wider community. Much has been achieved, and there is more work ahead.

Through it all, our team has shown commitment, resilience, and care. Staff and volunteers continue to support residents,

support one another, and support the organisation with professionalism and heart. These efforts shape the culture of HBH and make a real difference every day.

I want to thank our residents for the life and warmth you bring into our communities. Thank you to families for your trust and ongoing support. Thank you to our staff and volunteers for the care you give, the standards you uphold, and the way you show up every day, even when the work is demanding.

Christmas offers a chance to slow down and reconnect with what matters most. I hope the season brings rest, time with loved ones, and moments of joy. On behalf of HBH, thank you for being part of another strong and meaningful year.

Juliette Tuckey
HBH CEO

Our mission

Guided by purpose, not profit, we aim to create opportunities for older people to age well and live fully, through homes, care, community and advocacy.

Age well, live fully.



Our Giving Tree stands at the heart of HBH each Christmas. It carries messages of kindness from families, visitors, schools, churches and supporters. These messages remind residents that people in our community care for them.

Thank you to everyone who has donated so far. Your prezzie cards and contributions help us buy small gifts and provide support that government funding does not cover. Many residents no longer have close whānau nearby, so your generosity brings comfort during a time when loneliness can feel sharper.

We invite you to take part if you have not yet done so. You can donate online, write a Christmas message and we will place it on the tree. You can also visit our reception, pick up a tag and return your gift.

How to Take Part in the Giving Tree

Donate online: Write your Christmas message and we will place it on the tree.

Visit HBH: Drop off a prezzie card or cash and hang your own message.

Website: <https://christmas-giving-tree.raise-lysite.com/>



ST KENTS VOLUNTEERS

Thank You to Our St Kentigern College Volunteers

St Kentigern College students spent part of their weekend last month baking and sharing sweet treats with residents and staff at Howick Views. Their visit brought smiles, conversation, and a welcome sense of fun.

The students visit regularly under the guidance of Barbara Warne. During their time at HBH, they help with dinner service, spend time chatting with residents, take part in activities, and support Tech Wednesdays for Virtual Village East members and residents who need help with their devices.

Their presence makes a real difference. Residents value the company, the laughter, and the steady connection with young people who take the time to engage and listen. These moments add warmth to the day and support meaningful social connection.

The experience is equally valuable for the students. Through their visits, they learn from the stories and perspectives of our residents, build confidence, develop communication skills, and gain a deeper understanding of service within the community.

The impact of this connection was reflected when one student's mother, while collecting her daughter, took time to visit with a resident and shared how meaningful she felt the volunteering experience had been for her child.

We thank Barbara Warne and the St Kentigern College students for the time, care, and commitment they continue to share with our community.





NADIA'S STORY

Being able to book respite care in advance makes all the difference – as Nadia* discovered when she wanted to attend her daughter's wedding.



Nadia's mother, who turns 90 in October, lives with Nadia and her husband near Howick. While her mum can usually look after herself during the day, she had recently had a hip replacement and required more care. Nadia wanted to attend her daughter's upcoming wedding overseas, so she was looking for respite care during this time.

"While I was familiar with many of the local retirement villages and care homes through

my work, the Community Nurses Respite Care Helpline suggested that HBH Gulf Views might be able to assist," she explains. "I reached out and spoke with both Marc (the manager) and Anne, who were both so kind and helpful and very accommodating in meeting my needs."

Nadia says the Gulf Views team understood how important it was for her peace of mind to have her mother's care arranged well beforehand.

"HBH is one of the few or only providers I know who offer advanced bookings. I had contacted some other aged care providers, but none of them were able to confirm the dates, which wasn't going to work for me!"

It also helped that HBH Gulf Views was very handy to Nadia's work, which meant she could pop over and view the facilities. "Because of Mum's recent hip replacement, it was

important that everything was on the same level, including her room and the dining room. Again, Anne and Marc were very understanding about my requests and prompt in getting back to me. They made everything so easy – it couldn't have gone better."

Nadia says that the best part of the whole process was that her mother's stay was "wonderful" and she was very happy there.

She is planning another trip to visit her daughter next year and intends to book respite care at Gulf Views again. "Now that I know mum is so well cared for at Gulf Views, I can plan other trips and keep visiting my daughter regularly," she says.

"The advanced booking is invaluable as I can co-ordinate my visits with my daughter and Gulf Views. It has provided me with peace of mind – especially knowing that my mother loves it there."

RESERVE A RESPITE STAY AT HBH

Our respite care gives families and caregivers a much-needed break and ensures loved ones receive a high standard of care. Gulf Views and Howick Views welcome short term respite stays throughout the year. Our team will guide you through each step and help you plan a stay that suits your needs.

How to book at Gulf Views

Contact Anne Kirkbride
Email: Anne.Kirkbride@gulfviews.co.nz
Phone: 09 535 6050

How to book at Howick Views

Contact Jenny Moore
Email: Jenny.Moore@hbh.org.nz
Phone: 09 538 0800

CELEBRATING OUR CENTENARIANS

Reaching 100 years takes strength, purpose and a life shaped by relationships and experience. We recognise seven residents who reached 100 years or more. Their stories span decades of change, hard work, community involvement and family. They show us the resilience that sits at the heart of ageing well and they remind us why HBH exists and why our work matters.

This year, Dorothy, Una and Gladys reached 100. Each celebration brought staff, residents and families together in a genuine and meaningful way. These women carry a strong sense of identity and purpose. Their approach to daily life shows that age does not reduce a person's voice or contribution.

We also acknowledge Laurie, Jack, Joan and Evan, who all live with strength and clarity well beyond 100. They engage with daily life in

steady and thoughtful ways. They bring humour, patience and perspective into conversations and community moments. Their presence strengthens the culture of HBH and offers a clear example of resilience in later life.

These seven residents help us stay focused on care that respects personal history, values connection and supports choice. Their stories show us that later life holds depth and meaning when the right support surrounds people. They guide us toward environments where older people feel safe, known and included.

We honour Dorothy, Una, Gladys, Laurie, Jack, Joan and Evan. Their lives give our communities direction and insight. They remind us that ageing holds value and purpose and they continue to shape the heart of HBH.



Dorothy - Berwick Resident



Una - Inchinnan Resident



Gladys - Berwick Resident



Laurie - Apartments Resident



Evan - Seymour Resident



Joan - Seymour Resident



In remembrance

We also acknowledge Jack, who reached 101 this year and passed away recently. Jack formed part of our centenarian group and remained an important presence within the HBH community. We remember him with respect and appreciation for the life he lived.



BRYAN'S STORY

In 2024, Bryan closed a business he had run for seven years and began looking for new work opportunities. Around that time, a family friend asked if he could help out as a volunteer driver at HBH. He began by driving apartment residents on shopping trips, which often included a café stop.

"Some residents call them coffee trips," Bryan says. "We usually end up at a café once the shopping is done."

After a couple of months, a full-time driving role became available when one of HBH's drivers moved on. Bryan stepped into the position, supporting Day Club transport. Twelve months on, his role now covers transport across all areas of HBH.



Today, Bryan supports shopping trips, Day Club pick-ups and drop-offs, weekly outings for rest home and hospital residents, and monthly outings for apartment residents and members of Virtual Village East.

Each trip is planned around the needs and mobility of those coming along. Some outings are shorter, around two hours, with visits to places like Beachlands or Maraetai beaches, Parnell Rose Gardens, or Cornwall Park. Others last up to four hours and include destinations such as Hampton Downs, MOTAT, the Devonport Navy Museum, or the CCT Lavender Farm in Drury.

The time spent travelling often brings back memories for residents. As the bus moves along, stories begin to surface. Bryan hears about family picnics, outings with young children, and activities residents once enjoyed regularly.

"I get to hear all those wonderful stories as we drive," he says. "They're memories people still enjoy sharing."

For Bryan, the most meaningful part of the role goes beyond the driving itself.

"When we return and I hear residents talking about how much they enjoyed the day, that's when I know I've done

my job," he says.

A large part of that comes down to awareness and care. Bryan keeps a close eye on how everyone is travelling and looks out for potential issues before they arise. That might mean offering a hand while someone steps off the bus, carrying a heavy shopping bag, or suggesting a short rest if someone looks tired or unsteady.

"I treat my passengers the same way I'd want my own parents treated," he says. "They're my extended HBH family."

Alongside his driving role, Bryan also runs the monthly Blokes Café, a men's group that started this year. The idea came from noticing a gap in activities specifically for male residents.

"We have lots of activities for everyone, but not many that are just for the men," Bryan explains. "This gives them a chance to get together, have a coffee, and talk."

The group began with an open discussion about coming into HBH, what residents found challenging, and how they adjusted to a new stage of life. Since then, the sessions have included guest speakers. Most recently, a New Zealand geologist shared photos and stories from projects he has worked on around the world.



Male residents live across different communities and floors at HBH, so bringing them together in one space has been meaningful. Bryan also acknowledges the role of caregivers, who support residents to attend and help make the sessions run smoothly.

Looking ahead, there are plans to continue developing the Blokes Café and explore whether the concept could also work within the Day Club.

Outside of HBH, Bryan keeps a full schedule. He works around 30 hours a week and serves on the Executive Committee of the Howick Club. He also chairs

the Events Subcommittee, organising entertainment for the club's members, and sits on the Grants Allocation Subcommittee, allocating funding to community groups across Howick, Botany, and Pakuranga.

On weekends, Bryan heads to the family bach on the Awhitu Peninsula.

"You can't beat time at the beach," he says. "Fishing, a barbecue, and a chance to reset for the week ahead."

Through his work at HBH, Bryan plays a steady role in everyday moments that matter, offering care, connection, and a safe way for people to stay engaged with the world around them.



The Bloke Cafe had a special guest in December!

Ken McKenzie is one of New Zealand's leading Geology Consultants and he brought along a presentation of some of the pictures of international geothermal and hydro projects that he has been involved with.

From aquafar irrigation projects in New Zealand, Nuclear waste recovery in Scotland, to geothermal exploration for new power stations in Indonesia, Guatemala and Iran....Ken's stories and the many projects that he has been involved with were extremely interesting.

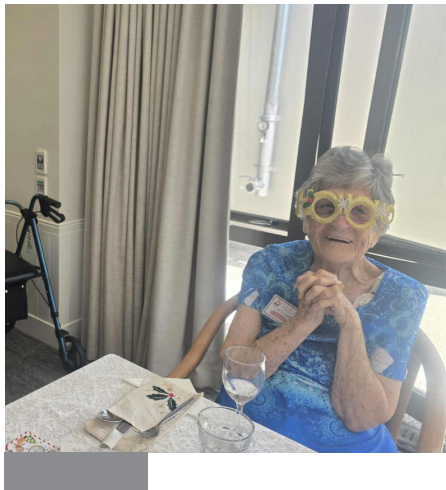


Life in our Villages: Howick Views Apartments

Residents at Howick Views Apartments have had a full start to December. They held their AGM earlier this month and wrapped up November with a trip to Pokeno, where they explored the shops, visited the car collection, and enjoyed ice cream in the sunshine.

Their annual Christmas Party followed soon after, with the dining room looking festive and plenty of laughter around the tables. The silly glasses added a playful touch, while the Christmas name game, matching the first letter of each person's name with their birth month, kept everyone entertained throughout the afternoon.







Life in our Villages: Stevenson Village

At Stevenson Village, new tenants in the recently completed units have settled in well and are already building connections with their neighbours. The village also held its Christmas Party, bringing long-time residents and new faces together to chat, catch up, and enjoy the start of the festive season.



Kathy and Erwan receiving their key to their new home. They are the first tenants to move into the newly built units at Stevenson Village.



Caring, Creating, Connecting: Gulf Views

Residents at Gulf Views enjoyed a varied November and December. Melbourne Cup celebrations brought plenty of fun, with residents taking part in a best hat competition. The group also enjoyed an outing to Bucklands Beach, finishing the day with ice cream by the water. Coffee outings, pet therapy visits and a range of games and activities added variety to the weeks.

Gulf Views also welcomed visitors through the Calling In programme, run by Hato Hone St John and supported by ASB staff volunteers. The volunteers spent time with residents and made Christmas cards, adding a thoughtful touch to the lead up to the festive season.





Caring, Creating, Connecting: Howick Views

Residents at Howick Views enjoyed a full and eventful November and December. As noted earlier in this newsletter, two residents recently reached 100, bringing the total number of centenarians across HBH to seven. These birthdays gave the community a meaningful reason to come together and celebrate.

Residents also enjoyed a range of entertainment, including visits from Davis Funerals Carols, Jim Jolly and Loretta Lorell. An outing to the Bucklands Beach Intermediate end-of-year showcase offered another chance to enjoy music and performances from the local community. Santa also made a surprise appearance at the Christmas Party, handing out presents and adding to the sense of occasion. More photos from these events are available on our Facebook page.

Refurbishment work in Sale Community will continue through December and into early January. New paintwork, flooring and upgraded shared spaces support comfort and day-to-day ease for residents and families and form part of a wider plan to refresh our buildings over time. We thank residents, families and staff for their patience and support during this work.





Friendship & Connection: Day Programme

At Day Club, warmer days have been a welcome change, with clients enjoying milkshakes alongside their much-loved toasted sandwiches. These simple treats have made lunchtime a fun and relaxed part of the day.

Day Club member Sandra was also celebrated recently when her team from The Restaurant That Makes Mistakes won Best Reality Series. Sandra received a well-deserved award, and her positive energy and enthusiasm continue to shine. She remains a wonderful presence at Day Club and a great influence on those around her.

Staff also shared food for Diwali, giving members the chance to taste and enjoy something new together.





Friendship & Connection: Virtual Village East

VVE closed the year with a Christmas Lunch that brought members together for a relaxed afternoon of conversation, food and raffles. The event gave everyone a chance to enjoy time together and mark the season. We thank our sponsors for supporting the Christmas Lunch and making the event possible. Their generosity added to a day that many members look forward to each year.

Members also visited a Lavender Farm, where they spent time outdoors and picked lavender to take home. The outing offered a calm change of pace and time to enjoy the surroundings.





Relatively Speaking

Each month, Relatively Speaking brings families and residents together to learn and connect through practical, open discussions.

Relatively Speaking recently welcomed Cheryl Calvert from Te Whatu Ora, who spoke with families about Advance Care Planning. The session provided a valuable opportunity to learn more about the process and to ask questions in an open and supportive setting.

Relatively Speaking will resume in February with Caro McCourtie, who will speak on joy, resilience, and celebrating milestones. More details will be shared closer to the date.



A Christmas Prayer

God of peace and compassion,
we give thanks for the year that
has passed
and for the people who have
shared it with us.

We are grateful for our residents,
for their stories, their wisdom, and
their presence in our lives.
We give thanks for families,
for their trust, care, and ongoing
support.

We hold our staff and volunteers in
prayer,
for their dedication, patience, and
strength,
and for the care they offer each
day, often in quiet ways.

At this Christmas time,
we ask for rest where there has
been weariness,
hope where there has been
challenge,
and comfort where it is needed
most.

May our communities continue to
be places of kindness,
respect, and genuine connection.
May we carry the spirit of
generosity and care
into the year ahead.

Amen.



Happy Holidays 