

HBH Happenings

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

September | October 2025



Kia ora koutou,

This spring has brought new beginnings and renewed purpose for HBH Group. The opening of ten new unit at Stevenson Village stands as a proud milestone in our work to provide older people with homes that are safe, affordable, and connected to their community. Each place represents security and belonging. the heart of what we do.

Every day at HBH, care shows up in small and meaningful ways. A conversation shared over morning tea, a hand offered in reassurance, a small act of kindness that turns a moment into connection. It's in these daily gestures that bring our care philosophy to life and make our communities places of meaning and joy.

As we look ahead, we remain focused on what matters most: creating communities where older people can live well, feel valued, and continue to grow. The work is not always easy, but it is deeply rewarding, and it continues because of the dedication of our staff, the trust of families, and the generosity of our supporters.

As Christmas approaches, our Giving Tree campaign offers a chance for our wider community to share the spirit of the season. Every gift, large or small, helps bring comfort and companionship to residents and clients who may be far from family at this time of the year as well as supporting us in our charitable endeavours.

Thank you to our residents, families, staff, volunteers, and partners for being part of the HBH whanau. Together, we continue to build something lasting — a place where care feels like home.



A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Juliette Tuckey'.

Juliette Tuckey
CEO, HBH Group

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.

Ten New Homes, Ten New Beginnings

On 28 September, HBH Group celebrated the opening of ten new social housing units at Stevenson Village. The new homes mark an important step in our commitment to provide safe, affordable housing where older people can live independently, feel secure, and stay connected to their community.

The day began at dawn with a blessing led by Tainui Waka, supported by Kuini Ngā Wai Hono i te Pō, Ōwairoa Marae, and Manurewa Marae and HBH Te Ao Maori Group. Tainui Waka have been with us from the very beginning, blessing the original houses before they were demolished and returning to bless the new homes now standing in their place. Their guidance and presence have carried this project from start to finish, connecting people, place, and purpose.

Later that morning, Hon Simeon Brown, MP for Pakuranga and Minister of Health, joined residents, staff, and community partners to celebrate the opening. The event brought together representatives from the Howick Local Board, the Baptist Church community, past and present Board Members, and our project partners TSA Riley, MHUD, Creative Arch Ltd, Owen Davies, White Associates Ltd, Smart Solution Homes, Dynamic Pipeworks, and Christian Savings.

This project reflects years of careful planning and collaboration. HBH extends heartfelt thanks to Kylie Windle, Group Manager for Housing and Projects, for leading this development with vision and determination. Sincere thanks also go to Maree, Matt, and Sachin, whose expertise and support ensured every detail came together, and to Juliette, our CEO, for her leadership and belief in the value of creating more homes for older people in our community.

We also thank the current residents of Stevenson Village for their patience and understanding throughout construction. Living beside a building site is never easy, and their good humour and cooperation made a real difference.

These new homes represent more than construction success. They stand for hope, stability, and belonging. They continue the legacy of Stevenson Village and strengthen HBH Group's mission to help older people age well and live fully.







Mary's Story

Mary spent 32 years as the Volunteer Co-ordinator at our rest home and hospital, so when it came time to move into assisted living, HBH was the obvious choice.

Mary and her husband spent many years in the Pakuranga area, where they raised their family. Tragically, her husband died in a car accident and Mary moved into HBH in 2023. While she hadn't intended to move to HBH so soon, she found she needed the extra support once she was on her own.

Fortunately, Mary had worked as a Volunteer Co-ordinator for HBH for over 32 years, so of course it was the first place that came to mind. "HBH was the natural choice as it was very familiar to me," says Mary. "When my son and I arrived on my first day, there were so many people we knew - both from his school days and from my time working there. It immediately felt like home."

Mary loves the 'caring vibes' and 'Christian atmosphere' and puts this down to the values-driven approach that lies at the heart of HBH. "When I first heard about the volunteer co-ordinator role all those years ago, it was through the Pakuranga Baptist church which we attended - and HBH was called the Howick Baptist Home back then."

Mary says that while HBH has seen many changes since that time, the same kind, caring and compassionate approach remains. "The staff have always been wonderful, and they still are," she says. "There are so many long-standing staff, which is testament to how special this place is."

"When I was the Volunteer Co-ordinator, I managed up to 150 volunteers, so it was a big job," she explains. "Back then, volunteers were very involved in many aspects of the care. I had to turn my hand to many things, including stepping in at the last minute to drive the mini-bus and teaching volunteers how to make 'hospital beds'.

After so many years of volunteering, it has taken Mary a while to adjust to being a resident. "Sometimes when I hear the call bell go, my immediate reaction is to answer it! 32 years is a long time to build up habits!" she laughs. But for now, Mary is happy to slow down. She enjoys the knitting club and craft activities at HBH and is involved in many other activities.

"HBH is a lovely place to live and a very special community."





Linda's Story

If you've met Linda, you'll know she brings warmth, humour and energy wherever she goes. She works as a Care Partner in Howick Views' Berwick Community and also helps out in the Day Club.

Originally from Ghana, West Africa, she has lived in New Zealand for 20 years and joined HBH just over a year ago. Her path into aged care wasn't planned, but it turned out to be exactly where she was meant to be.

"I was managing a McDonald's when a lady came in and said, 'You'd make a great caregiver,'" Linda laughs. "I didn't know much about it, but I decided to try. I worked nights at McDonald's and mornings as a caregiver, and I loved it. I realised I was happiest when I was helping people and making them smile."

Before joining HBH, Linda worked in home support and found great joy in caring for older people in their own homes. When she discovered HBH, she knew instantly it was the right fit. "I actually got two job offers that day, but when I walked into HBH, I knew this was where I wanted to be. It just felt like home."

For Linda, caring is a two-way street, giving and receiving in equal measure. "To me, 'Age Well, Live Fully' means helping residents stay as independent as possible, not taking over. It's about supporting them to do what they still can, because that's how they keep living fully." Her approach aligns closely with the Eden Principles of companionship and giving and receiving care.

"I never want anyone here to feel lonely or left out. I try to bring energy into every space so no one feels alone."

Linda has formed many strong connections with residents, especially with Gwyn, who she remembers fondly. "When she passed, it hit me hard. But the other residents came to comfort me, and that's when I realised how much we all care for one another here."

She describes herself as enthusiastic and a go-getter. Her energy and laughter are contagious, and her kindness never wavers. "I believe in treating everyone the same, with respect and care," she says.

"That's what makes HBH special. We look after each other."





Life in our Villages

Howick Views Apartments & Stevenson Village

Residents spent a day at Butterfly Creek and at the airport, watching planes and enjoying the outing together. September's trip was postponed but everyone's looking forward to the next one.

At Howick Views Apartments, the Level 1 foyer now has a fresh new look with updated furniture and decor which is already a favourite spot for a chat.

Juliette and Teresa were among the first to test the new couch and enjoy the bright, welcoming space.

At Stevenson Village, neighbourly care is part of daily life. Resident Moira George delivers the Eastern Times to her neighbours every fortnight, greeting each one with a smile and a few words along the way.





Caring, Creating, Connecting

Howick Views & Gulf Views

At Howick Views, the past two months have been full of life. The local kindly has been visiting regularly and is always a highlight for residents. This visit was no different, filling the lounge with laughter and hugs. In the dining room, residents have taken pride in caring for their plant, watering it and trimming the leaves together.

Fridays are outing days, and a recent full-day trip included visits to the Buddha Temple, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, and the airport. The International Day of Older Persons added more joy, with lively music from Christopher Blign.

Residents and staff also celebrated Daffodil Day, Māori Language Week, and Fiji Day — each one a chance to share stories, food, and connection.

At Gulf Views, creativity continues to shine. Residents baked scones and sweet treats, knitted hats for Kidz First Hospital, and enjoyed pats and cuddles from visiting pets. A visit to Manawa Bay Mall rounded out the season with laughter and conversation.



Daffodil Day Celebrations



International Older Person's Day Celebration



Residents enjoying a morning of baking together.



GV Knitting Group



HV Outing to Buddha Temple



Colour, music, and joy filled the room for Fiji Day.



Visiting pets to GV



GV Residents trip to Manawa Bay



Regular visits from the kindy



Maori Language Week



Friendship and Learning Through Virtual Village East

VVE continues to build connection and purpose for seniors.



Virtual Village East (VVE) is a friendship network for seniors living in the community with more than 200 members. It offers connection, learning, and support through regular activities, talks, and outings that help members stay active and engaged in their community.

Members took part in sessions with Auckland Libraries on financial wellbeing and better sleep, joined the new Coffee and Board Games programme, and welcomed Kidney Health NZ for free health checks. The Open Afternoon: My Support Network drew strong interest, with new members signing up on the day.

Regular outings remain a highlight, with visits to the Buddhist Temple, MOTAT, and Dine at MIT bringing both discovery and friendship.



Day Club

The Day Programme has been as lively as ever. Clients have spent their days singing, playing games, and enjoying time together. The laughter and music filling the room show how much these moments mean to everyone who comes through the door.



RELATIVELY SPEAKING

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

In September, Juliette and Jasper hosted the Family Roadshow, sharing updates from the aged care sector, upcoming plans across our services and results from recent surveys. October's session featured Carol, our Occupational Therapist, who explained how Cognitive Stimulation Therapy supports memory and wellbeing.

Next month, Cheryl Calvert will join us on 12 November to talk about Advance Care Planning — helping individuals and families plan ahead with confidence and care.



INTRODUCING THE HBH GIVINGTREE

This Christmas, we're excited to introduce a new initiative – the HBH Giving Tree.

As well as being a very special new Christmas tradition for HBH, it's also a wonderful way to support our residents and the other seniors we care for in our community.

Friends, families and local businesses will be able to give in three ways: by donating a Pressie® Card to light up someone's life this Christmas; by putting a gift under the tree for a loved one; or by donating online to support seniors in our homes, care and community. Plus, you can write a special message on a gift card to hang on the tree.

As a charity, we rely on the support of our community to realise our mission of helping older people to age well and live fully. By donating to the HBH Giving Tree, you'll help us bring love, peace and joy to seniors in our homes, care and community this Christmas and for years to come.

Look for the posters around our care homes – and keep an eye out for the HBH Giving Tree at Howick Views – coming soon!





Strengthening Connection Through Language and Practice

Our Te Ao Māori Group is partnering with Ōwairoa Marae to deepen our understanding of Te Reo and tikanga. Staff will take part in Te Reo lessons guided by the marae, building confidence to use the language in everyday life.

IMPORTANT DATES & UPDATES

- **14 NOVEMBER** : Remembrance Day - more info on this will be sent out soon
- **12 NOVEMBER**: Relatively Speaking - Advanced Care Planning

NEW WEBSITE LAUNCHED

We've refreshed our website to make it easier to stay in touch and find what you need which you can take a look on www.hbh.org.nz

You can now book Relatively Speaking sessions online at hbh.org.nz/relatively-speaking-seminars.

While you're there, explore our new [Fact Sheets](#) for useful information and advice to help you or your loved one live well and age fully.

REFURBISHMENT AT SALE COMMUNITY - HOWICK VIEWS

We're making some changes at Sale to create a more refreshed and comfortable space for residents. The existing nurses' station will be removed to make room for a new lounge where residents can relax and spend time together. We will also be replacing the flooring and repaint the community.

Work will commence in November and there will be some noise or disruption during this time. Thank you for your patience and understanding as we make these improvements to enhance daily life for our residents.



Loving God,

Thank you for the people who make HBH a place of care, friendship, and peace.

Bless our residents, families, and staff with strength, kindness, and joy in the days ahead.

May our work reflect aroha in all we do,
and may every person we serve feel seen, valued, and at home.

Amen.