

HBH Happenings

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



CEO message

Kia ora koutou,

Spring has arrived, and with it comes a noticeable change across our communities. The days are getting longer, gardens are starting to wake up again, and there is a sense of fresh energy after winter.

You may also notice that this edition of Happenings is a little shorter than usual. Over the past few weeks, our team has been focused on preparing HBH Group's 2026 Impact Report. This looks more closely at the difference our Homes, Care, Community and Advocacy services make for older people and their families. We look forward to sharing a copy with you in the coming weeks.

A big part of that work comes from listening. Thank you to everyone who took part in our annual surveys this year. Your feedback gives us a clearer picture of what matters most to residents, families, clients and members, as well as where we need to improve.

We have also recently completed a series of Staff Roadshows across HBH. These gave our teams the chance to hear more about our direction, ask questions and share what is working well and what needs attention. Early next year, we plan to hold a Family Roadshow so families can hear directly from us, ask questions and contribute to the conversation about the future of HBH.

There is plenty happening across HBH, and not all of it can fit into one newsletter. What matters most is that we continue to listen, stay connected and keep you informed about what is happening and what lies ahead.

Thank you, as always, for the part you play in our HBH community.



Juliette Tuckey
HBH CEO

SAVE THE DATE

Coming up at HBH

6
OCT

Relatively Speaking: Grief & Loss

2:30-3:30pm · HBH Howick Views

Grief coach Judi Johnson from Embrace Your Future explores the many forms grief can take, including bereavement, changes in health and relationships, and letting go of the life we expected.

RSVP: Jeanne.Atiwag@hbh.org.nz

10
OCT

HBH Cultural Day

10:00AM to 2:00PM - HBH Howick Views (Fountain Courtyard)

Join us for cultural food stalls, a sausage sizzle, music, performances and traditional dress as we celebrate the many cultures across HBH.

Families and whānau are warmly welcome. If your loved one lives at Howick Views, come along, spend the day with them and help them join in the celebrations.

27
OCT

Voting at Howick Views

The Electoral Commission will provide onsite voting at Howick Views for **residential care residents** on 27 October 2026.

Residents who want to use this service need to enrol by **9 October** so the Electoral Commission can prepare in advance.

Families can help by checking their loved one's enrolment and supporting them to enrol or update their details if needed.



LAURIE'S STORY

"It's like losing a leg."

That is how Laurie describes giving up driving after more than 80 years behind the wheel.

At 103, he still holds his licence, but he decided for himself that it would no longer be fair or safe to drive in case he had a heart problem on the road.

"I still miss it."

Laurie has driven since 1939, and his last three cars were sports cars. "I like speed," he says. He once toured the South Island for three weeks, crossed the mountain passes and covered about 4,000 miles (6,400 km).

Born in Epsom in 1923, Laurie grew up during the Depression and left school early to help support his family. He put on his Air Force uniform on the day Japan bombed Pearl Harbor and, at 18, joined a squadron in Tonga. His service took him through Fiji, New Caledonia, the New Hebrides (now Vanuatu) and the Solomon Islands.

"I was just a boy," he says.

The Air Force sparked a lifelong interest in aviation. After the war, Laurie completed his auto electrician apprenticeship and later worked in aircraft engineering. He never learned

to fly, but he still gets out to Ardmore Airport to follow the restoration of older aircraft.

In 1949, Laurie married Patricia, whom he had met at a dance in Rotorua. Back in Auckland, he discovered he could see her house from his own. In 1955, they moved to Howick, where Laurie designed and built their family home, and they raised their three children. Today, his family includes grandchildren and great-grandchildren, and for Laurie, belonging means family.

After Patricia died in 2015, Laurie found the house and garden too much to manage alone. He already knew HBH, and when a three-bedroom apartment came up at Howick Views, he had a simple verdict: "It'll do me."

He lived there for 10 years. Living alone could feel lonely, but twice a week, car club catch-ups with the boys got him out for a cuppa and a chat.

"That kept me motivated."

In April, Laurie had a heart event and moved into care at Berwick. He did not want to



go anywhere else. He misses regular conversation about cars and aircraft, but still gets out when he can and spends time with his family.

At 103, Laurie cannot explain his long life. Ask him for the secret, and he keeps it simple.

"Keep breathing."



CELEBRATIONS

A colourful few weeks

There has been no shortage of colour across HBH. Daffodil Day brought plenty of yellow, while our language weeks gave residents and staff the chance to share music, culture and traditions.

At Howick Views, Tongan Language Week came to life through performance, while Cook Islands Māori

Language Week offered another chance to learn about language and culture. There was a personal milestone to celebrate too.

Noel and Trish marked 49 years of marriage with a renewal of their vows at Howick Views on 16 September.



Celebrating Father's Day at Gulf Views.



Noel and Trish mark 49 years of marriage.



A splash of yellow for Daffodil Day.

Te Wiki o te Reo Māori (Maori Language Week)

Te Wiki o te Reo Māori brought te reo and tikanga into everyday life at HBH.

At Howick Views, residents planted kūmara, tried their hand at rākau and explored Māori designs through art. Students from Howick Intermediate

also shared kapa haka with residents, filling the room with waiata and movement.

The week gave residents and staff different ways to hear the language, learn by doing and give something new a go.



Howick Intermediate shares kapa haka at Howick Views with Gulf Views in attendance. Residents also plant kūmara at Howick Views





HOMES

Howick Views Apartments & Stevenson Village

Spring is starting to make its presence felt across our independent living communities.

At Stevenson Village, residents have been back in the garden as the warmer weather arrives. Howick Views Apartments residents have kept busy closer to home too, with Thursday knitting, Friday movies and regular activities, alongside outings into the wider community.

A trip to Bucklands Beach for Chatty Café turned into two easy hours over coffee and conversation. More recently, residents headed to Auckland Museum to explore the Wildlife Photography Exhibition, with Crystal Mountain next on the list.

Barbie the pug has also proved a welcome visitor, especially when she arrived wrapped in a blanket knitted especially for her by Kathy.



Erwin and Barbie: A welcome visit at Stevenson Village.



A Chatty Café catch-up at Books N Bricks Café in Bucklands Beach



Movie afternoon: Residents settle in for a Friday movie afternoon at Howick Views Apartments.



Thursday knitting: Needles out for the Apartments' regular Thursday knitting group.



CARE

Howick Views & Gulf Views

There have been plenty of reasons to get involved at Howick Views and Gulf Views.

Howick Views residents headed to Howick Intermediate for Alice in Wonderland, welcomed the Zimmers Dance Company for Father's Day and backed the Warriors in team colours over two Fridays.

The new Men's Club has also made a good start, with 11 residents at the first get-together and plenty of conversation around the table.

Gulf Views residents have been out and about too, including a recent museum visit. Whether it is a show, an outing or simply the chance for a good yarn, residents can keep enjoying the interests and company that matter to them.



Gulf Views outing: A visit to Auckland Museum and a surprise visitor by the beach.



Alice in Wonderland at Howick Intermediate.



Up the Wahs! Howick Views backs the Warriors.



Father's Day fun with the Zimmers.



COMMUNITY

Virtual Village East & Day Club

Day Club and Virtual Village East have both packed plenty into recent weeks.

At Day Club, the team remains a serious contender for HBH's best dressed, with Father's Day, Daffodil Day and World Alzheimer's Day all given the full treatment. For World Alzheimer's Day, purple took over the room, from outfits and decorations to biscuits and cake.

VVE members have had plenty to choose from too, with coffee catch-ups, walking groups, exercise classes, Book Talk Club, scam awareness, technology sessions and outings. Recent sessions have covered everything from WhatsApp and AI to nutrition, eye health and safer driving. The programme reaches across all Five Pillars of Ageing Well, giving members practical ways to stay active, learn something new and keep in touch with the people and community around them.



VVE members attend a session on wellbeing.



Best dressed? Day Club makes a strong case.



Purple takes over for World Alzheimer's Day.





ADVOCACY

Advocacy Support & Relatively Speaking

HBH's advocacy work reaches beyond our own communities, while also helping older people and families closer to home.

This year, HBH contributed to the 2026 NZCCSS Older Persons Poverty Monitor, which looks at poverty and hardship among older people across income, housing, health, essentials and connection. The report also features Virtual Village East as a local example of how community support can help older people stay connected.

Relatively Speaking is another part of that work. In September, Alistair van Schalkwyk from ASCO Legal joined us to talk about wills, estates and Enduring Powers of Attorney, with practical information for older people and the families who support them. Our next session, on 6 October, will explore grief and loss with Judi Johnson from Embrace Your Future.

Both give us a way to keep older people's experiences and questions part of the conversation, whether that conversation happens at HBH or further afield.



Hilda (right) with Rachel McKay at the launch of the inaugural Older Persons Poverty Monitor 2026 at Parliament.

Friends of HBH: helping us make a difference

As a charitable, not-for-profit organisation, we rely on government funding, our own resources and the generosity of our community. Some of the services that support older people to stay connected and independent, including Virtual Village East, Day Club and social and affordable housing, receive limited or no direct government funding.

We also want residential care to remain within reach for older people with fewer financial choices. Around 37% of HBH's care rooms are standard, non-premium rooms.

The recently released *Ministerial Advisory Group report, A Place to Grow Old: Securing the Future of Aged Care*, reflects many of the pressures aged-care providers are facing. It calls for major

changes to how aged care is funded and delivered, including better integration between services and more support for standard residential care.

At HBH, we are focused on what we can do now. That means helping older people stay connected and resilient, supporting families, and continuing to provide care and services for people who may face financial, social or physical challenges

. Later this year and into 2027, we will share more about Friends of HBH and the different ways our wider community can help us keep this work going.

Read more: [*A Place to Grow Old: Securing the Future of Aged Care Ministry of Health report*](#)



Announcements



Thank you for having your say

Thank you to everyone who took part in our recent surveys. We are working through what you told us, including the things you value and the areas where we need to do better.

We will put summary posters up soon across all HBH sites and communities, so you can see the results for your service and what we will focus on next.



Inchinnan & Minerva Community Refresh

Earlier, we had hoped that work on the Inchinnan and Minerva Community Refresh would begin in the latter part of 2026. As the project has progressed, the detailed design, consenting and planning requirements have taken longer than originally anticipated, and construction is now unlikely to begin before early 2027.

This is a significant project for HBH and represents a substantial investment in creating refreshed, welcoming and more home-like spaces for our Inchinnan and Minerva communities. We are very excited to see the project continuing to move forward and are committed to taking the time needed to ensure the design and construction planning are carefully worked through before building begins.

Planning is progressing well; however, we do not want to give residents and families a firm start date until we have greater certainty around the remaining approvals, tender process and construction programme.

As soon as we are able to confirm the next steps and timing, we will contact Inchinnan and Minerva residents and families directly and provide a fuller update.

Thank you for your patience and ongoing support as we work towards bringing this important project to life.



Seymour Community Refurb

Following the recent refurbishment of Sale Community, we are also looking forward to turning our attention to Seymour, with work potentially getting underway later this year or early in 2027 as well.

The refresh will incorporate dementia-friendly design principles, recognising that a significant and growing number of elders across our

communities are living with cognitive change and memory loss. Our aim is to create environments that feel welcoming and familiar, while better supporting independence, wellbeing and the changing needs of the people who live there.

There is more planning still to come, and we look forward to sharing further details as the project develops.



PRAYER

Gracious God,

Thank you for the people who make up our HBH community and for the many ways we care for one another.

Help us to listen well, show kindness where it is needed and notice those who may need a little extra support. Bring comfort to those facing grief or change, strength to those who care for others, and joy in the ordinary moments we share.

Bless our residents, families, staff, volunteers and wider community in the weeks ahead.
Amen.