

The Beacon

April 2022



Welcome

Welcome to our first issue of the year, and what a start to the year it's been. Like most of Auckland, after Christmas and New Year, we were faced with the new challenges of the Omicron outbreak.

I'd like to take this opportunity to acknowledge our residents and relatives for your understanding as we navigate this ongoing challenge. And to thank our staff who have been consistently amazing. I've been constantly impressed by their commitment to ensure our care continues to be of the highest standard.



By the next issue of the Beacon, let's hope the Omicron wave will be well behind us and we can move forward to a 'new normal'. I know I look forward to a time when we can all meet again in person without restrictions: until then, *kia kaha* – go well and stay safe.

Bonnie

Lockdown highlights: games, gardening & BBQs

Two years ago, who would have thought wearing a mask would be a part of our daily wardrobe, visiting would be socially distanced, 'lockdown' would be one of the most commonly used words in the Western world, and RATs would be welcome? Things have certainly changed!

As an aged care facility where our most important people are particularly vulnerable, HBH Senior Living has had to re-think how we operate and manage the daily life so our residents are as protected as possible.

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Online booking system for visits with loved ones

Having friends and family visit has always been a vital part of daily life at HBH, so this has been the toughest restriction for everyone. Technology has enabled us to keep families connected and to that end, we've initiated an online booking system, which we've been able to adapt as restrictions change. If you haven't already, check it out [here](#).

Thank you once again to the friends and families of our residents for your patience and understanding during these challenging times.



Meet Belinda Taylor, our Clinical Operations Assistant

Belinda has worked at HBH Senior Living for over 30 years, starting out as a caregiver and now working as our Clinical Operations Assistant. This means she oversees the scheduling of our clinical team, including our nurses and caregivers. Belinda's role is a busy one and it has become even busier with COVID. Here, she explains what a day in the life of a Clinical Operations Assistant looks like.

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Driving Miss Daisy – always on call to help out

Driving Miss Daisy is a sponsor of HBH's Virtual Village – a community service HBH provides to assist older people to enjoy friendship, companionship and support from other seniors in the community.

As an essential service, your local Driving Miss Daisy drivers can run errands or pick items up for you if you're isolating, or would prefer not to leave home at the moment.

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Lynne's story – "everyone's just so happy here"

Lynne Riddle began volunteering at HBH Senior Living recently and loves it. "Volunteering is perfect ... I get to meet all sorts of different people," she says. "HBH is much more relaxed than the hospital in Tauranga where I used to volunteer," she enthuses. "The staff are so joyful and happy – it's a great place to be."

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Keeping Omicron at bay

Our staff have been going to great lengths to keep residents safe from the latest COVID outbreak. Our health protocols have been very challenging, and as you can see by the following list of safety supplies, we're doing everything we can to keep Omicron out of our residents' home. Every week, we are currently going through...

- **3,000** N95 masks
- **8 litres** of hand sanitiser
- **10 litres** of hand soap
- **1,200** RAT tests
- **25,000** hand towels
- **18,000** pairs of gloves

For reflection

Lord, we pray for perseverance as we continue to move through this latest Omicron outbreak. Protect us as we go about all we need to do in the community we live in.

Shield us from the virus so we may not carry it into our work places.

Lord, we ask for wisdom so we know how best to help our residents. We ask for compassion as we help them deal with their health issues.

We Thank you Lord, that you have given us strength to continue in our roles that you have brought us to. Guide us in all you would have us do. Amen.