

Quarterly Update

news from Vincentian Home and Hospital
October 2011



Back garden winter wonderland

The previous Quarterly News announced the return of me and my partner Paul from South America, and Lucila's return from the United States. This time it is Helen Green, our Clinical Manager, who has taken a well deserved break for six weeks to visit the UK and Europe. While Helen has been away Lucila has been Acting Clinical Manager. It has been a hectic three months with builders working on the refurbishment project and part of the roof being replaced, more about that later. This will be the last newsletter prior to Christmas so look out for further information regarding our Residents' Christmas Party planned for early to mid December.

QUALITY ACTIVITIES

It has been an active three months for staff training, both in-service and external. Throughout August five of our caregivers, Imelda, Orla, Elvira, Charmaine and Duri completed a Palliative Care course run by Mary Potter Hospice. They are pictured below proudly displaying their certificates. In addition to this Imelda, Charmaine and a further caregiver Alex, attended a Caregivers Study Day organised by New Zealand Nurses Association which covered a variety of topics and gave the caregivers an opportunity to mix with staff from other aged care facilities.



It gives me great pleasure to announce that Tony Horne, who has been studying towards his National Certificate in Residential Care, took one step closer to his goal when he successfully completed the second of the three units he needs to obtain his certificate.

The in-service training for staff included sessions on the ageing process, pain management, restraint and consumer rights. Three of our Registered Nurses attended a study session on end of life care held at Mary Potter Hospice.

The Health and Disability Service Standards, against which we are regularly audited, have introduced a new standard which states that all Registered Nurses in Aged Care facilities must undergo an annual competency assessment in the administration of medications. At Vincentian we test that standard by the nurses doing an annual medication questionnaire and by our Quality Co-ordinator, Clare Maddock, observing an actual medication round. This was carried out in August and all nurses were assessed as fully competent.

In addition to supervising the training programme for staff, Clare has been auditing all of the care plans for the residents. This is a time consuming

process but to date she has been very pleased with the quality and content of the individual care plans.

WAY OF LIFE

Apart from the surprise snowfall in August the winter months brought generally good weather which allowed a few outings. We had a stunning day for a visit to Petone beach in July. The views back across the harbour towards the south were spectacular. July also included a visit to the Reserve Bank Museum, Alexandra rest home for bowls and an outing to Colonial Cottage. It was also the month for our mid-winter dance, this year with a Best Hat theme. Kilmarnoch Rest Home residents joined us for the afternoon, John and Joe played the fiddle and piano respectively, and the best hats and best dancers were awarded with prizes.



Best Hat Dance

In August the residents delighted in the snow, everyone adjusting their seats to watch the back garden slowly turn white. Snowflakes were later made from paper and mulled wine and chocolate were the order of the day. Other activities throughout the month included trips to California Garden Centre, Animates to cuddle some of the animals, and a squally blustery outing to Evans Bay. On one of the cold days I presented a slide show of photos taken on my recent trip to Galapagos Islands and Peru after which there was lots of talk and questions.

September was full of plenty of hands on activities for both the Rugby World Cup and an Alzheimers Appeal Week afternoon tea. Some more good days enabled us to enjoy the sunshine after making a pathway through the builders gear in the conservatory to get to the back garden. A number of residents took the opportunity to come along to "Slice of Heaven" an exhibition at Te Papa on 20th Century New Zealand. We even had the chance to raise the New Zealand flag to the National Anthem!

The few days prior to Alzheimers Appeal Week were spent baking fruitcakes - one to raffle and one to eat - and lamingtons. For the tea party we collected fine china tea sets from relatives and Liz from the Alzheimers Association joined us to speak about the work of the association and to receive the \$202 donation we raised from the fruitcake raffle.

Three perfect Fridays meant we had a glorious day along the south coast feeding the seagulls, another day walking along Chaffers Marina looking at the boats and a trip to the Botanical Gardens to see the masses of floral colours, each bed dedicated to one of the Rugby Cup nations.



Alzheimers tea party



Tulips at the Botanical Gardens

STAFF NEWS

Staffing has remained very stable over the past three months. This may change in the near future as a number of our caregivers have been employed on work permits and have to apply to Immigration New Zealand each time their permits expire. Current Immigration policy is to employ New Zealand resident workers where at all possible and so some of the work permits are not being renewed. This has been the case with Sumitha Vijayan who has since decided to remain in New Zealand and undertake a course of study. We are celebrating the success of one of our caregivers, Neda Adap, who has been accepted by the New Zealand Nursing Council to sit a competency course for Registered Nurses before she is awarded her New Zealand nursing registration.

ELECTIONS

Voting is set to place at Vincentian throughout the day Tuesday 22nd November. If you intend taking your relative out to vote independently could you please let a member of staff know and we will ensure they do not vote twice!

SATISFACTION SURVEY

This year we distributed two surveys, one for the residents themselves and the other for family members to complete. The results to date have been most encouraging but we would love to have a few more returned. If you

have not received a survey and would be happy to complete one for us please ask Jan at the front office and she will supply you with a copy.

FORGET-ME-NOTS, DAFFODILS, ROSES, LILAC ETC

A sweet plea from Natalie Brockie, our Residents' Advocate, who regularly visits to talk with the residents and arrange the beautiful flowers through Vincentian. Usually these generously come from her garden but this supply is thinning out at the moment. If any family has a bloom or two to spare or some greenery could they please kindly drop them in for Natalie to arrange.

REFURBISHMENT PROJECT UPDATE

As everyone who has visited the Home since August will be aware we have started on the refurbishment project detailed in the last newsletter. As so often happens the moment you start something of this scale you uncover many other problems. This was indeed the case when work started on rooms 30 and 31. A leak was discovered in the ceiling which led to scaffolding being erected around the building and the flat roof above that particular area being replaced. While the builders were working on the roof it was noted that a good many of the tiles on the remainder of the roof were cracked and in need of replacement so more scaffolding was erected and all damaged tiles replaced.

The three rooms and the small lounge area were eventually completed early October and work is currently underway in the eastern wing of the hospital pictured on the following page. A temporary door has been placed across the entry to the corridor to isolate the area as a building site for health and safety reasons and hopefully to reduce noise levels and keep the smell of paint and glue contained.

My thanks to the understanding shown by residents relocated from this wing and their families while the work is underway. In order to accommodate all of the residents from the wing the small lounges upstairs have both been converted to temporary rooms.



Hospital wing corridor

The ongoing plan is that each area will take approximately three weeks to complete. Following the wing currently being refurbished the next area will include room 29 and rooms 33 to 37 then rooms 39 to 42 and the final hospital level area will be the main lounge. From there the builders will move to the rest home level where work will concentrate on the main lounge, the dining room and lastly the entrance way and corridors.

Work has now also commenced on the extension of rest home rooms numbers four and five with the addition of a small sun lounge to the front of each room.

Residents' Christmas Party



Although we are yet to confirm a date the party this year will be either Saturday 3rd or Saturday 17th December.

Last year was great fun with entertainment, lots of food generously supplied by all the guests, and the favourite of many, a slide show looking back over the activities of the Home for the past 12 months. Please keep an eye out for posters around the Home nearer the time and make sure you set aside the afternoon to come and join us.

