

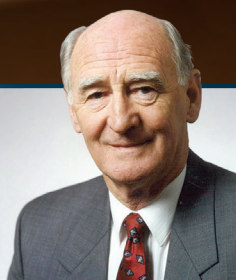
PeopleMatters

Spring Issue | 2015

Keeping pace with technology

Presbyterian Support Southland is looking at ways technology can improve efficiencies and benefit residents, clients and staff.

Former PSS
Chief Executive
Alan Smith
Remembered



Entertainment
book fundraiser

Prizes a hit
with Little
Buddies



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Mid-Winter Fun

It was cold outside, but the festivities were warm!

Mid-winter is a cause for celebration within Presbyterian Support Southland's aged care homes.

This year Vickery Court held a grand Mid-Winter Christmas Dinner; which also marked the first week on the job for chef, Barry Hollings. Working alongside a great team in the kitchen, staff produced a fantastic meal, while other Vickery Court staff set up, cooked, cleaned and tidied afterwards.

Walmsley House staff, along with residents and their families, also enjoyed a mid-winter lunch, heading off-site to the Thar and Feather Restaurant. It is not often all of the residents and their families spend time off-site together, but it was an occasion that was thoroughly enjoyed.

Nostalgia Ball

Peacehaven Village resident Val Ronald was one of many residents to enjoy the recent Nostalgia Ball. Here, she recalls the evening.

What a great evening we enjoyed in Holms Lounge on Saturday night. The staff had decorated and set out tables like a real dance club and they made us very welcome.

Music was well-known dance tunes played on the piano by the talented Cheree and spirited items on the bagpipes by our own Trevor Morton - resplendent in full kilt.

Some of the residents enjoyed clapping and singing along to the old favourites, including 101-year-old Jack.

Supper was served at 8pm and we finished the night with rousing renditions of The Hokey Tokey and Auld Lang Syne. Most of us danced the night away - even if some used their walkers as partners. Didn't matter - it was great fun.

Thank you to Susan and the Girls for inviting us - it was a truly enjoyable night.

Val Ronald



IT Advisor Hazel Jennings with Presbyterian Support Southland Chief Executive Peter Wards

KEEPING PACE WITH TECHNOLOGY

Presbyterian Support Southland is looking at ways technology can improve efficiencies and benefit residents, clients and staff.

Over the years Presbyterian Support Southland has adopted many new technologies.

These include care call systems with pagers introduced in 1999, electronic time sheeting in 2007, increasing use of computers for communication and the more recent additions of interRAI and Medimap. Medimap has now been fully implemented at Walmsley House and Resthaven and will soon be implemented across all PSS aged care homes.

PSS Services for Older People Director Julia Russell said while some staff may have had reservations about changes, they had embraced them openly and were now reaping the benefits.

"All areas of health have felt the impact of technology," she said.

"The words tablets and notebooks mean different things than they used to, but staff are really accommodating the shift. At least one of our longer serving staff members thought using the new Medimap system would be the end of her working life as a carer, but she is a star with it, and that's exciting."

"As a management team we are committed to fully supporting our staff with training around any changes or updates to the way we work."

The organisation has now engaged the services of a specialist IT advisor as it seeks to understand how to make better use of technology throughout the organisation and what might be needed.

Auckland-based IT specialist Hazel Jennings is working alongside PSS with a holistic view. Her work is set to include an overall audit of all information communication technology currently used, identifying any gaps and assisting in the development of guidelines, protocols and systems to improve efficiencies in the workforce.

PSS Marketing and Communications Manager Shelley Erskine said technology had huge potential in terms of benefitting staff, residents and clients, and said staff would be well-supported with any training required as and when any changes were implemented.

"Technology is constantly evolving and it's a space we need to continually be exploring and developing," she said.

"It's about being more efficient in the way we work and implementing strategies around that. We're excited about the new thinking Hazel can bring to PSS. If we can make improvements to the way we operate as an organisation, it will only add benefit to clients and residents we work with every day."



PRIZES A HIT WITH LITTLE BUDDIES

Two Little Buddies involved with the Buddy Programme couldn't stop grinning after winning prizes generously donated by Quantum Print.

Dylan Pennicott (pictured left) with Invercargill Buddy Programme Co-ordinator Rosanne Wybrow won a signed Stags jersey. Blake Twining of Matura (pictured right), won a signed Southland Stags rugby ball.

Family Works Team Leader Pam Smith said the prizes were very much appreciated. "The boys were delighted and very proud of their prizes," she said.

Find Out More
The Buddy Programme is a mentoring programme for children aged 4 to 12 who need extra adult support. A child spends up to two hours a week with a Big Buddy; a volunteer recruited, trained and supported by Family Works staff. There are programmes in Invercargill, Gore and Queenstown.

For more information, contact Family Works Team Leader Pam Smith on 03 2118221 or pam.smith@southland.familyworks.org.nz.

Staff News

Staff Achievements

Achieved National Certificate

– Core Competencies:
Mel Campbell (nee Cole – congratulations on your recent marriage!), Donna Harwood, Carrie Liggins, Inga Perkins, Tracey Jepson, Carolyn Cowan and Kelly Roughan

Achieved Level 2 National Certificate in Cleaning and Caretaking:
Keith Barr

Level 2 and 3 National Certificate in Cleaning and Caretaking:
Tony Green

Limited Credit Programme – Dementia:
Rosina Duffy, Beverly Harris, Noemi Repasa, Jo Botting and Margaret Harwood

Gained ANZASW Competency:
Kris Wallis

Gained ANZASW Re-Certification:
Glenda Pritchard

Level One Te Reo at SIT:
Maree Sellars, Glenda Sadlier, Anna Kirkwood, Rochelle Smith and Rosanne Wybrow

Completed Fire Warden Training:
Central Office, Family Works, Peacehaven Village and Walmsley House

Peacehaven has welcomed back Aman Gill, Pritty Job and Sarah McNicoll; all returning to work following the birth of their babies.




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Staff from Family Works and Central Office entertain residents at Peacehaven Village during an afternoon to celebrate Matariki

Matariki celebrations present a chance to connect

Matariki was a chance to bring together staff and residents within Presbyterian Support Southland

Matariki celebrations are an annual highlight for Presbyterian Support Southland and this year proved no different, with staff and residents at Peacehaven Village hosting Family Works and Central Office staff to mark the occasion in late June.

Staff and residents enjoyed lunch, a look at the Anzac display and walkway at Peacehaven and the sharing of songs and music, along with a variety of activities from flax weaving to scrapbooking throughout the afternoon.

Family Works Team Leader and Cultural Advisor Louise Fowler said the occasion presented a chance not only to acknowledge and celebrate Matariki, but for team building as well.

"Prior to the afternoon at Peacehaven a large number of Family Works and Central Office staff came together regularly to practice songs, which was a great opportunity for some team building," she said.

"It was a great chance, too, for our staff to meet with residents and staff at Peacehaven. You can get so caught up in your own work, but it's so important to connect with others within our organisation. While we don't usually interact a lot with staff or residents at PSS homes, being able to share the Matariki celebrations was really special and we were blown away by the hospitality we received."

Louise said there was a genuine and increasing desire within PSS to celebrate Matariki.

"The majority of staff are so pleased to be able to grow their own awareness of significant cultural events, which is great," she said.

"Many years ago Matariki wouldn't have even been spoken about, but now it's an annual celebration and it's a special time for us."

Coffee Group a sweet addition to SupportLink service

The SupportLink Coffee Group in Gore is proving to be a popular brew for seniors in the area.

A cuppa and a chat are providing some much-needed company for a large number of senior adults in Eastern Southland.

After identifying a need in the community in 2011, staff working with SupportLink in Eastern Southland set up a coffee group for Gore and Districts residents aged 60 and older. The group meets monthly at various venues across the district and has grown from just 13 original members to more than 60 on the mailing list, and often 30 to 40 people in attendance each month.

SupportLink Gore Coordinator Patricia Officer-Young said it was an increasingly popular group.

"People enjoy the fact that they can come together purely for a cuppa and a chat without having other items on the agenda," she said.

"The participants enjoy catching up and forging new friendships."

Transport is provided for those who require it.

Find Out More

Contact Patricia at SupportLink on 03 208 0864 or email patricia.officeryoung@pss.org.nz

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