

PeopleMatters

Summer Issue | 2015

Celebrating Christmas

Christmas is a special and busy time, as the organisation is involved in multiple activities and community projects



Community Award
for Wakatipu Buddy
Programme



Good work at
PSS shared with
global audience



Acknowledging
outstanding
service

PLUS Pēpi-Pods offer safe sleep solution • Staff achievements and happenings • Relative and Family Survey *and more*



The PSS Bear was once again a popular feature in the Invercargill Santa Parade

Celebrating Christmas

Christmas is a special time and for Presbyterian Support Southland, it's a busy time as well. The organisation is involved in multiple activities and will be involved in many other community projects, to ensure the festive period is enjoyed by all. PSS is fortunate to receive vast and valued community support, which we anticipate will only grow in the lead up to Christmas. Here are just some of our many Christmas activities so far.

Santa Parade

Christmas hit the streets of Invercargill in late November with the annual Santa Parade. PSS's big bear made another popular appearance, with Family Works staff and children enjoying the ride through Invercargill. This year the bear and volunteers were dressed as builders; drawing on the theme of lending a hand and building stronger communities.

Volunteer Thank You

PSS expressed its thanks to volunteers who have supported Services for Older People this year, with a morning tea at Vickery Court in early December. More than 500 volunteers support PSS organisation-wide, with more than 350 of those supporting Services for Older People. The morning tea was a gesture to thank those who give their valued time to support residents through a wide range of voluntary services.

Christmas Tree Charity Event

Family Works is taking part in the Waihopai Lions Club's Christmas Tree Charity Event this year. The initiative sees businesses nominate a charity to support, and decorate a Christmas tree to go on display at ILT Stadium Southland. Members of the public are able to place

a donation towards the tree and charity they choose. The Waihopai Lions Club has opted to support Family Works with its tree and all trees are currently on display until Christmas.



Andersons Hall at Peacehaven has been given a Christmas makeover by St Andrews Young Achievers

Decorations at Peacehaven

St Andrews Young Achievers took the time to decorate Andersons Hall at Peacehaven Village with Christmas decorations. The hall is used by residents and visitors, who very much appreciated the new festive look.

Family Works Picnics

Family Works celebrates the festive season with clients, with picnics for Big and Little Buddies in Invercargill,

Gore and Queenstown, Foster Parents and children, and families involved with Family Start. Family Start clients enjoyed a wonderful day out, with a bouncy castle, face painting and numerous other fun activities, including the chance for children to meet Santa.

H&J Smith Christmas Appeal

Family Works clients will once again benefit from the generosity of Southlanders, with an ongoing partnership with H&J Smith. A large Christmas tree is in the department store, and shoppers are invited to purchase gifts for children specifying the age and gender the gift would suit. Family Works staff are then able to distribute the gifts to families they work with.

Salvation Army Adopt a Family for Christmas

Several families involved with Family Works will also get to enjoy a wonderful Christmas, thanks to the Salvation Army's Adopt a Family for Christmas initiative. Family Works staff have submitted families to be part of this concept, and they will receive gifts for each family member as well as a Christmas food hamper to enjoy on Christmas Day.

Community Award for Wakatipu Buddy Programme

Wakatipu Buddy Programme volunteers have been recognised, with the programme winning an award at the Queenstown Lakes District Trustpower Community Awards.

The Wakatipu Buddy Programme has long had a positive effect on children in the area.

Now, the efforts of the 32 volunteers that make the programme such a success have been recognised with a Trustpower Community Award, with the programme winning the Education and Child/Youth Development category.

The programme, which sees adult volunteers matched with children aged 4 to 12 years, provides children with friendship, support, guidance and encouragement and its positive impact was noted at the awards ceremony held in Wanaka in November.

Family Works Buddy Programme Team Leader Pam Smith was delighted the volunteer-based programme had been recognised.

"It's so nice that someone took the time to nominate the programme, let alone to win the category," she said.

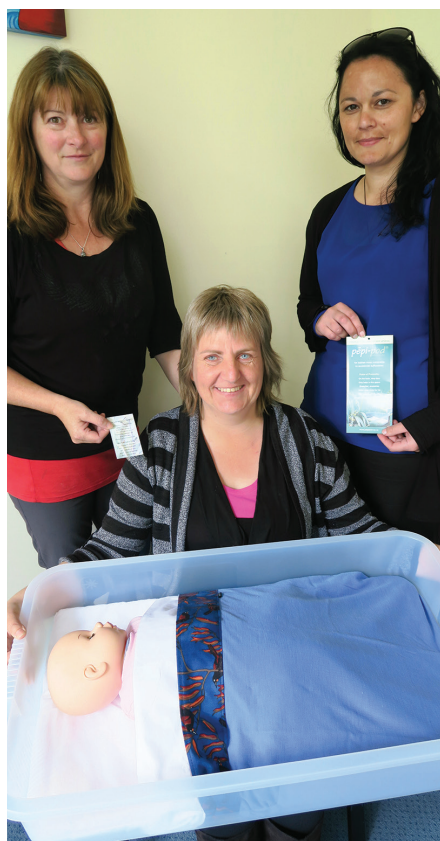


Trustpower's Graeme Purches, Big Buddy Heather Riddell, Mayor Vanessa van Uden and Wakatipu Buddy Programme Co-ordinator Nanette Benington at the Queenstown Lakes District Trustpower Community Awards

"The programme is so well supported in the Wakatipu area, and the value of all of our volunteers is immense, so it's lovely to celebrate that with this award."

Wakatipu Buddy Programme Co-ordinator Nanette Benington was presented with \$500 for the Buddy Programme and a framed certificate.

Pēpi-Pods offer safe sleep solution



From left Rose Lang, Marice Butler and Rochelle Smith, showcasing a Pēpi-Pod.

Family Works staff have long promoted the benefits of safe sleeping for newborn babies. Now they have a practical solution to offer families, in the form of Pēpi-Pods.

Family Whānau worker Marice Butler believes the introduction of the Pēpi-Pod Sleep Space Programme has huge potential to support Southland families.

The pods – a portable space for babies to sleep in – have been part of Family Works' offering since August and they have already received a positive response from families.

"In conjunction with safe sleeping practices such as sleeping babies on their backs and keeping the space around the head clear, the pods give babies their own sleeping space which is positive; especially if parents are co-sleeping," Marice explained.

Through Public Health South, Family Works has 10 pods, along with three staff who are trained to deliver the pilot programme to families to explain use of the pods and further safe sleeping messages.

The pods were developed as an emergency response during the Christchurch earthquakes, and are promoted to families with babies with an increased risk of sudden infant death such as premature babies, babies that have been exposed to smoking, those in families where the use of alcohol and drugs is prevalent and where co-sleeping is common.

Pods come with a mattress, fitted sheet and merino blanket and can be used for babies up to five months old.

Marice said it was brilliant to have a practical solution to safe sleeping.

"Now we can provide advice and reinforce key messages, as well as offer tools to ensure babies are safe," she said.

FIND OUT MORE

You can find out more about Pēpi-Pods by contacting Marice Butler at Family Works Southland. Phone 03 211 8257.

Backing the All Blacks at Vickery Court



Vickery Court staff, residents and several of their families, turned out in force to cheer on the All Blacks during the Rugby World Cup; celebrating the pool game against Namibia with a breakfast. One resident – Wilma Capil (pictured) – showed her allegiance, dressing up to support her team from the comfort of the Vickery Court lounge. The All Blacks defeated Namibia 58-14 and went on to be unbeaten in the tournament, beating Australia 34-17 in the final to be crowned World Champions.

Relative and Family Survey – Have Your Say

Each year we ask for your opinion by doing a Relative and Family Survey for the relatives and residents who live at Walmsley House, Resthaven Hospital and Residential, Peacehaven Hospital and Residential, and Vickery Court.

The Relative and Family Survey is designed to find out how well you think the home and staff are meeting the needs of your relative and what could be changed or improved.

The survey is part of our quality programme and is provided by Quality Performance System (QPS). It allows us to:

- **Benchmark ourselves internationally and nationally**
- **Improve our services**
- **Give relatives the chance to provide feedback**

We value the time Families and Residents take to complete this important survey, as well as their feedback, which helps to ensure that the services are of the highest quality and best meets their needs.

The survey is available electronically, and we will be contacting families without an email address with a paper version.

Survey results will be available in late January and we will look to provide feedback in February and in our next newsletter.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Home Manager or Administrator.



Record knitting attempt

Members of Vickery Court's Knit and Natter group have contributed to Hospice Southland's attempt to break the Guinness World Record for the longest scarf knitted by a team. Hospice Southland Co-ordinator Shirley Smith met with residents and accepted several metres of scarf they had knitted (pictured with resident, Dorothy Smith). Nearing its first kilometre, the scarf has generated interest from as far afield as the UK, and will eventually be made into warm and colourful blankets for New Zealand children in need.

Eftpos now available

Eftpos is now available at Central Office for payments of PSS invoices, resident accounts and donations. It is for payments only, no cash out or change is available.

Annual Report and Financial Statements

The 2014-2015 Annual Report and Financial Statements are now available online at www.pss.org.nz. Alternatively, feel free to call into Central Office and pick up a copy.

We are grateful for your support. Here's how you can help.

Donate Now OR **Donate Online:** www.southland.ps.org.nz/donate-now

Enclosed is: ☐ \$10 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$500 ☐ Other \$

Mr / Mrs / Ms / Miss

Name:

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Donation Purpose:

All donations are retained within the Southland region

Volunteer

- ☐ **Become a Volunteer**
- Services for Older People
 - Buddy Programme
 - Foster Care

- ☐ **Become a Family Works Guardian Angel**

Ongoing Donations

- ☐ **Contact me to set up a regular automatic payment**

Bequest

- ☐ **Contact me about leaving a gift in my Will**

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