

PeopleMatters

Winter Issue | 2015

REMEMBERING THE ANZACS

A real sense of community has been created
through various Anzac remembrance projects at
Peacehaven Village



**Family Works launches
new Family Dispute
Resolution Services**



**Entertainment
book fundraiser**

**Staff changes
bring new
opportunities**



PLUS Getting to know our people - Mary Matchitt, Family Works • Green fingers at Peacehaven • Funding secured *and more*

Online move positive for care workers

Training moves online

Care workers will be able to swap the classroom for their computer, with training modules set to be provided online.

Training for care workers, designed to augment other National Certificate training, is now available online and PSS Director Services for Older People Julia Russell believes staff will benefit.

"It makes the training more accessible – staff can access it when it suits them and they don't have to be in that classroom environment at a specified time," she said.

"The ability for carers to develop skills to assist residents with specific conditions means they can respond to new challenges as they arise and work in different areas and facilities."

Online training is expected to be available at PSS facilities shortly.

Creating a warmer winter through donations

Winter can be a difficult time for some

If you have quality items Southland families could benefit from this winter, Family Works would like to hear from you.

Family Works Director Judith McInerney said the organisation was very grateful for any donations, as power bills and additional heating costs can make winter a difficult time for families who are already in need.

"A lot of the families we work with live in older homes that are not well insulated so it is wonderful that, through the generosity of others, we can support them."

Donated items, which could include non-perishable food items, bedding, clothing, blankets or monetary contributions, can be dropped in to Family Works at 183 Spey Street.

Memorial to fallen soldiers is on display at Peacehaven



Remembering the ANZACs

A real sense of community has been created through various Anzac remembrance projects at Peacehaven Village; along with a lasting memorial to fallen soldiers that will soon be on display at the entrance to the village's walkway.

Residents, staff and family members all contributed to a large mosaic, featuring 64 individual tiles, each painted as a tribute to commemorate the 100 year Anzac anniversary and dozens of yarn bombed poppies were created to decorate Peacehaven's entrance way.

This has been an exciting project which has taken several months and Presbyterian Support Southland (PSS) Manager Community Services for Older People Lynn Morton has been delighted with the outcome.



"It's a real credit to everyone who has been involved," she said.

"Everyone embraced the projects and wanted to be involved in some way or another. War is something that



has affected everybody, so there has been a real connection with this and a tremendous enthusiasm across all the projects."

"Even if residents couldn't manage to hold a paintbrush, they could communicate what they wanted to staff and some were assisted by artists or family members. Not only did the projects represent a personal tribute to the Anzacs, but they really connected our residents, staff and family members which was wonderful to see."

A wreath made by residents, was laid at the Invercargill cenotaph on Anzac Day on behalf of PSS. It was presented by Ken Holmes, a cottage resident at Peacehaven, a veteran and former Prisoner of War.

Many families have benefited from this dedicated woman's work



The knitting extraordinaire

When it comes to knitting for Family Works there is one lady who really stands out, Dorita White. Dorita, with the help from some trusty volunteers, has knitted and donated roughly two to three dozen blankets every year to Family Works.

The idea came to her many years ago when a speaker at St Stephen's Church encouraged the congregation to knit blankets to send over to Romania. About 20-30 blankets were created and she thought, what about the families in Invercargill, they could do with them too.

That's when the idea took shape. The bulk of the knitting is done by herself and yarn is either brought or given to her. Volunteers help to knit the individual squares and then she stitches them altogether creating the overall masterpiece. Before each blanket is donated they are taken to her Church to get blessed.

Family Whānau Worker, Chris Gilkison said that Family Works are very thankful and that over the years many families have benefited from this dedicated woman's work. In addition to the warmth and comfort provided they are very colourful and look amazing.

When asked how many blankets she's knitted, she said she doesn't count, she just keeps on knitting.

Making sure kids get early childhood education

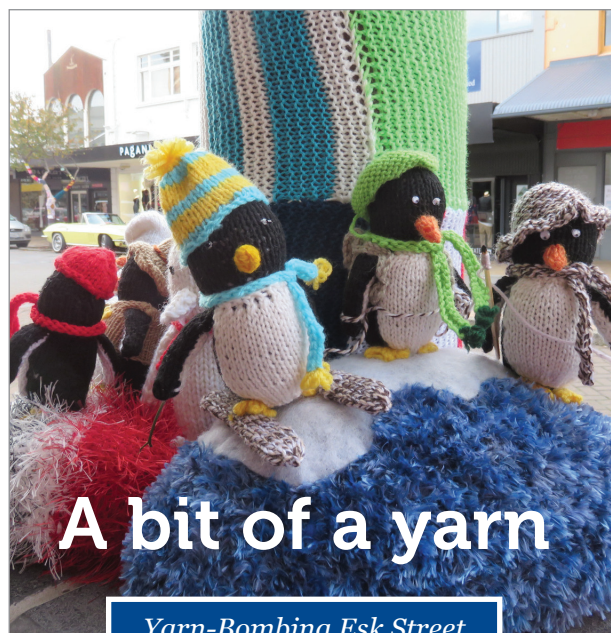
Children and parents benefit from Early Learning Programme

Family Start runs an Early Learning Programme (ELP) enabling families who can't afford day care costs to still provide their children with early childhood education. These programmes have been running for many years and were originally created by the Ministry of Social Development after seeing the need across the country.

ELP Co-ordinator Maggie Latchford has noticed ELP has grown over the years, as there have been higher numbers of children requiring the programme. "It's great for the children as it encourages further development in their learning and social skills, and for the parents it means they can provide their child early childhood education without the financial burden" she said.

A further benefit of this programme is that it provides parents with the opportunity for part-time employment, study or time for other activities.

Currently there are about 80 active families with 110 eligible children involved. Most of the children come into the programme from either self-referrals or from other agencies. There is some criteria around eligibility, such as children need to be between the ages of 18 and 36 months.



A bit of a yarn

Yarn-Bombing Esk Street

Yarn-Bombing recently took over Invercargill's Esk Street as part of the Southland Festival of The Arts 2015.

Residents from across the facilities have joined forces in a dynamic community project to brighten up Invercargill's Esk Street. Yarn-Bombing uses everything from crochet to cross-stitch and various community groups tirelessly crafted and up-cycled, adding colour and character to the central city.

Staff changes bring new opportunities

Staff changes within PSS are bringing fresh outlooks and new thinking across the organisation. PSS Director Services for Older People Julia Russell said she was delighted to have such well qualified, experienced and caring staff in management positions across PSS homes.



Melissa Harris
Vickery Court Manager

Melissa admits it was a tough call to leave Peacehaven Village – where she had been manager for just six months – but her move to Vickery Court is providing a different opportunity that she's eager to make the most of.

The opportunity to manage Vickery Court interested Melissa for a number of reasons, including the residents and the proposed new development on the site.

"The residents at Vickery Court are quite able, this is their home and they still get out and do so much, which is great," she said.



Jennifer De Jesus
Walmsley House Manager

After more than three years working as a Registered Nurse at Peacehaven, Jen felt the time was right for her to step into a management role. So, when an opportunity arose at Walmsley House, for Jen it was the ideal fit.

"I wanted to try a new adventure, a new role and step up to see how things work at another level," she said.

"I'm enjoying it a lot, every day is different and you learn plenty with new challenges. The staff and residents have been so supportive."



John Boleyn
Peacehaven Manager

From Holland to New Zealand, hydroponics to owning motels, John's career to date has been varied but he always comes back to aged care. He comes to Peacehaven Village fresh from a role with Oceania Healthcare, where he was charged with transforming a resthome into a hospital.

"I like working with the elderly, there's a lot the elderly can give back to us, and I like being able to provide a really positive experience for them where they live," he said.

New feature

Getting to know...



Mary Matchitt

Role with PSS:
Receptionist
Family Works

Started in:
July 2014

Give us a quick overview of your role:

Reception is the first port of call for visitors to PSS and Family Works, so it is my job to make sure they are directed to the right person who is best able to help them, whether it be for Parenting Programmes or queries regarding our Resthomes. This also applies to the phone calls we get.

What's the number one thing you love most about your job?

It has to be the people I work with, and no two days are the same – there's always something happening.

What do you enjoy outside of work?

I have attended woodwork classes at SIT for many years, as well as doing some travel and of course good old rock music, especially attending concerts.

What's the one thing, you can't live without?

My family, which includes my darling wee dog, Pearly!

What's your favourite quote or saying?

There's a poem called "Reason, Season, Lifetime", I was given a copy many years ago and it's about people who come into your life.

Fundraiser

Entertainment Books For Sale

Want to save money on a huge range of food, activities and accommodation and help PSS fundraise? Why not buy an entertainment book?



Please support us by ordering your book or digital membership today. Membership costs \$60, with 20% of each membership going to PSS.

Purchase online:

www.entbook.co.nz/26128m8

Purchase in person:

PSS Central Office, 183 Spey Street or any PSS Resthome/Village reception area

"This past year I went with the digital version. No book to cart around, and it automatically updates new deals each time I log on. The app tells me I've saved up to \$395."

- Glenda, Intake Social Worker

Te Rau Aroha Marae visit



Peacehaven Cottage residents (from left, Barbara Kelsall, Ena Hunt and Joy McDermott) enjoying a cultural experience at Te Rau Aroha Marae. For many residents it was their first time on a Marae.

New services aimed to settle family disputes out of court

Family Dispute Resolution (FDR) Services

Staff at Family Works have undergone extensive training in preparation to roll out new services. These services, known as Family Dispute Resolution (FDR) Services, are a Ministry of Justice initiative, designed to reduce the number of cases referred to the Family Court and involves mediation and preparatory counselling offered to parents with issues around the care of their children. This new service is provided in partnership with the Ministry of Justice contract holder, Family Works Central.

Six Family Works staff members have gone through required training to become accredited mediators. Family Works Director Judith McInerney said "Further to offering the FDR services, Family Works will really be able to provide a wraparound service. We can offer a number of other services when required, whether that be counselling, parenting programmes, or – as the FDR is targeted primarily at parents – look to involve children in programmes that may be of benefit."

Judith said "Family Works staff were enthusiastic and excited about this area of service delivery, and it had been a real team effort to upskill the staff involved".

Family Works started taking referrals for the services in April.

What is it?

A mediation service designed to support families in resolving issues without the need for court intervention. Anyone who is involved in a family dispute relating to care of affected children can go to FDR. Most of the time this is parents, but sometimes it may involve extended family/whānau or other caregivers (such as grandparents or step-parents).

Completing FDR is compulsory for most people who wish to file a Family Court application for a parenting order or guardianship direction. Some exceptions apply.

How does it work?

Parents or guardians that have disputes around the care of their children must attend FDR mediation together; with the aim for all to agree on a plan that is in the best interests of the child, unless there are reasons for exemption.

When will this be rolled out at Family Works Southland?

FDR services have recently begun across Southland.

How do I find out more?

Call 0800 337 100 OR visit www.familydisputeservices.co.nz



THE PROCESS

Parents or Guardians can call 0800 337 100 to access FDR services. Cases will be confidentially talked through and generally assessed.

The mediation process will be carried out by a local Family Works mediator.

The mediator will meet all parties involved and will help everyone make decisions about how to care for the child. This could be around living arrangements, pick up/drop off arrangements, holidays, schooling and anything else that needs discussed.

The mediator may recommend those involved attend preparatory counselling to gain support through the process.

In the final steps, an agreement will be reached as a result of the mediation process. This will become a written agreement and if chosen, the Family Court can turn the agreement into a Consent Order.



Presbyterian Support
Southland



We are grateful for your support.
See reverse for how you can help.





Thanks for your continued support

Funding secured

Since the beginning of this year, PSS has secured \$250,000 of continued funding for the next year, thanks to the support of the Invercargill Licensing Trust, ILT Foundation, Community Trust of Southland and Central Lakes Trust.

The Invercargill Licensing Trust and ILT Foundation have each made grants of \$65,000 to support Parenting Programmes, the Dedicated Intake Service and a social work position.

The Community Trust of Southland has granted \$100,000 to be used across the organisation, and the Central Lakes Trust has committed \$20,000 annually for the next three years to support Wakatipu-based services including the Buddy Programme and Supportlink.

PSS Marketing and Communications Manager Shelley Erskine said funding levels had remained the same as in previous years and the organisation was immensely grateful to local funders for their on-going support.

Wedding celebrations



The newly-weds, Faye and Deryck Marshall happily celebrate their wedding with other residents at Frankton Court Cottages.



100-year-old Peacehaven Village cottage resident Madge McKay with some of the African Violets she grows.

She's a master of the art

Green fingers at Peacehaven

Gardening has always been a passion for Peacehaven Village cottage resident Madge McKay and at 100-years-old, she remains as green fingered as ever.

While it's considered quite a skill to grow African Violets, Madge makes it seem easy; her Peacehaven cottage is adorned with colourful versions of the plant. She says she's mastered the art over many years, after first seeing them on travels abroad.

Coming from a property with a large garden before moving to Peacehaven Village 12 years ago, Madge has also been a keen help to the Peacehaven gardeners over the years; often growing different plants and being sure to pull out the odd weed if one arises.

As for whether her green fingers have helped keep her young, Madge isn't too sure – "I've just been lucky," she says, with a smile.

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:

Address:

Postcode:

Phone:

Email:

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**

Post to:

Marketing and Communications Manager,
Presbyterian Support Southland
PO Box 314,
INVERCARGILL 9840



Presbyterian Support Southland

People helping people in Southland

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