

Canterbury Community Life

Best Christmas present ever

Elizabeth, Carol, Lynley, Mary-Anne, Stephenie and Jane are looking forward to Christmas, because their new home – Bev Morrissey House – will be completed.

How excited these residents are about moving into their new home. For many years they have shared bedrooms in the 80-year-old Manuka House, which has been home to five of these women since they came to Hohepa Canterbury as children.

Manuka House was dismantled in August to lay the foundations for the building of Bev Morrissey House, named in memory of the late wife of Canterbury Regional Board member and supporter John Morrissey.

The \$853,000 home culminates a capital development campaign which has seen the redevelopment of Lamar House earlier this year and Willow Cottage in 2007.

All three homes are suited to the care and support of Hohepa's adult and ageing community – wheelchair/walker friendly, low maintenance and energy efficient. Open plan living areas, bedrooms, bathrooms and toilets are all suitably adapted with handrails, non slip vinyl and wet area bathrooms. But, more importantly, for Elizabeth, Carol, Lynley, Mary-Anne, Stephenie and Jane, their own bedrooms – at last!

Light and airy, Bev Morrissey House retains a spacious and welcoming feel. A two-bedroom flat upstairs is designed to accommodate younger residents capable of living independently. And there's an additional sleep-over room for on-site support staff.

Work began on 17 August and the building project will be largely



Family members of residents visit the Bev Morrissey House construction site (from left): Stan King, Raymond Eberhard (General Manager, Hohepa Canterbury), Pauline Valentine, Maree McKernan, Judy Baillie, Kevin McKernan, Gendy Brown (Hohepa Canterbury Regional Board member and Fundraising Committee Chairperson), Roger King, Shirley King and Bev Henderson.

completed by Christmas, ready for residents to move in at the end of January.

To complete this project, Hohepa Canterbury aims to create an outdoor space that residents will enjoy – but needs \$15,000 to complete the landscaping work over the summer. We invite the community to help with this appeal.

Big screen rugby a winner

For ardent rugby fans in the Hohepa community, the gift of a beautiful new projector and large screen for the Recreation Centre has been greeted with great acclaim. The movie buffs agree.

When Roly and Lisa Tennekoon and their children visited Hohepa, they enjoyed their visit so much they wanted to help. Having run a HiFi electrical business in Perth, Roly knew exactly what was needed.

'As soon as we walked into the beautiful hall, we knew this was the perfect place for a large screen and projector. It would enable everyone to watch weekend rugby and, with the Rugby World Cup coming up, they would have a fantastic time watching that,' he says.

Roly and Lisa's gift of a pull-down screen and projector has been linked to the surround-sound system – and it's reported to be working perfectly.

'We are expecting an invitation to a movie night very soon!' says Roly.

In addition to movie or sports nights, the equipment can be used for educational workshops and conferences as well.

'It is amazing the work being done at Hohepa to make the lives of the people here more fulfilled,' Lisa says. 'Mum and Dad (John and Bev Morrissey) were involved in the campaign to build Willow Cottage and Dad's 70th birthday here was quite an occasion.'

'It has been nice for our children to be involved as well,' says Lisa. 'Our children really enjoyed coming here that morning and went back to school to talk about it. It had quite a big impact on them actually.'



Roly and Lisa Tennekoon during a recent visit to Hohepa Canterbury.

What's happening?

A round-up of news from Hohepa Canterbury

Tasmania-bound for Steve

Steve Bull was one of five people to represent People First New Zealand at the ASSID conference in Tasmania. The three-day event brought together 300 scientists, health professionals and people with disabilities to hear papers on research and present their views.

Steve, along with Graeme Parish, chairperson of People First National Committee and former Hohepa resident Simon Atkinson presented a workshop on Supported Independent Living, which covered topics such as loneliness and isolation, safety and comfort.

Lynette Priddy, Steve's assistant said some very good discussion followed as attendees moved into individual workshops to discuss the issues raised.

'What we realized is that it is really important for people with intellectual disabilities to be there and contribute,' she says. 'New Zealand seems to be more progressive in advocacy issues than Australia.'

Attending a three-day conference starting at 8.30am to 6pm each day can be tiring. The group arrived in Hobart two days early to settle in to their hired house, then went shopping to buy ties the guys could wear to meet the Governor.

Along with listening to speakers and participating in discussions, there was the New Zealand stand to look after, where they sold DVDs, distributed brochures and pamphlets, and where Simon sold all his woodcraft.

'After listening to one speaker who has resided in an institution for 18 years, Stevie realized how lucky he was living at Hohepa with all his comforts around him and the freedom to join committees and go away to a conference,' says Lynette.



Steve takes time from conference proceedings to enjoy the view across the harbour at Hobart.

Sydney performance for John, Theresa and Michael

John Lambie, Theresa King and Michael Stanley and fellow members of Christchurch's *A Different Light Theatre Company* have been invited to present at an Arts Access Australia conference next year. The conference will attract film makers, dance companies and people involved in disability services to the Powerhouse Museum in Sydney in March.

Director Tony McCaffrey says his application was based on the work *The Poor Dears* performed at the Body Festival in Christchurch this year.

'We will be presenting for 40 minutes in the main lecture theatre about our way of working together in the devising and creating of material, including a film of the performance,' says Tony.

The group has also been invited to perform at the Platform Festival in June, organised by the University of Canterbury's film and theatre studies department.

John, Theresa and Michael have been members of *A Different Light Theatre Company* for some five years; the group performed at the Awakenings Festival in Victoria in 2007.

Tony McCaffrey is a full-time lecturer in the Faculty of Creative Industries at CPIT, while completing a part-time PhD at the University of Canterbury on disability performance.



Our Christmas message to you

I would like to say a big Happy Christmas to all those who protect and defend us at Hohepa and happy, like kings.



Generous gift of time and talents

Having a Project Manager on board pays dividends, because it ensures building projects stay on track, on time, and on budget.

Gary Spence has overseen a number of building projects at Hohepa Canterbury, including the redevelopment of Lamar House, the renovation of the Wellness Centre and the building of Bev Morrissey House. Many people may not realize that Gary donates his time to this work, taking time from his property and project management services company Spence Consultants, and residential and commercial painting company to do so.

For Gary, his role as Project Manager is all about detail and decision-making – both must be realistic if a building or property maintenance programme is to succeed. He visits us each Thursday to check progress on Bev Morrissey House.

He says it was important for any new property be tailored into an existing property portfolio, and is preparing a 10-Year Property

Maintenance Programme that will bring all the homes up to a style and finish that will involve less maintenance and ensure longevity in future.

'I am one of those people who likes to manage the project and get involved more than most. I heard recently that you donate your time freely, but in sponsorship you take ownership of the donation as well and follow it through. I could relate to that,' he says.

'I see this as a means of giving something back to the community, and have in the past been involved in helping Child Cancer and CCS in Hawke's Bay.'

Gary's day begins at 6am. After setting up his painting crew for the day, he manages a range of building developments ranging from kitchen and bathroom alterations through to million dollar projects.



Gary Spence

'It's a busy life and, despite the economic downturn, business is good. Good contractors always attract plenty of work I've found.'

Hohepa Canterbury wishes to thank Gary for his generous gift to this campaign and for his ongoing support and assistance with our 10-year Property Maintenance Plan.

everyone!
think of when I was a king in the Christmas
ng has to protect and defend. I want to thank
a, so that we can live like we do, comfortable
Michael George



Birthday wishes

Birthdays are special occasions at Hohepa Canterbury. Never turning down an opportunity for a celebration – even better, two of them – residents turned out in style to help two very special people celebrate significant birthdays recently.



The Day Base hosted an afternoon tea for Sheelagh Thompson, a key supporter of Hohepa Canterbury in celebration of her 80th birthday. Regional Board member Gendy Brown accompanied Sheelagh for this occasion. A big birthday cake was a major attraction for the residents, several of whom addressed Sheelagh in their inimitable style. Everyone present rounded off this wonderful occasion by singing 'Happy Birthday'.

John Morrissey, Regional Board member and supporter celebrated his 70th birthday at Hohepa Canterbury, joined by his children and grandchildren and, of course, several of our residents who were there to help him blow out his candles.



Welcome to



Murray Le Prou is settling in to his new home in Veltoma House. Murray, aged 17 is from the Kapiti Coast.

Mara Hua Whenua (fruit from the soil)

There is great excitement at the farm, as residents begin work creating a mini farm garden in an area known as the 'Ditch Paddock'.

Seen as a social therapy environment, the residents and day attendees can enjoy hobby activities, such as planting veggies on a larger scale, keeping pets, worm farms, wheelchair accessible raised garden beds and potting up native trees – all for the sheer enjoyment of getting their hands dirty.

The health of the stream that runs beside the paddock will also be viewed, along with seeking some expert opinion on native plants to attract the bird population.

A journey – not a destination, Mara Hua Whenua is an exciting project which will see greater numbers of residents enjoying the farm environment. Work has already begun and it is great to see the residents so engrossed in their activities – active, happy and contented.



Nurse Kathy McNamara checks out the new wet area bathroom in the Wellness Centre. Thanks to the wonderful people who contributed to our fundraising appeal, the Wellness Centre is now complete and fully equipped with a dishwasher, washing machine and drier, plus an office for Kathy who is now stationed in the Centre.

Fashion Friday

Stunning models, wonderful food and not a spare seat in the house, a first class fashion event was staged at the Piko Piko Restaurant at the Millennium Hotel in October.

Several of our supporters joined the audience to enjoy the ambience of the occasion which was successful in raising \$2200 for Hohepa Canterbury.

We thank organizer Suzanne Reid for choosing Hohepa Canterbury as the recipient of funds raised at the Fashion Friday event, and for the opportunity to tell a wider audience about our work.

Thank you to our wonderful supporters

We are blessed to have the support of so many individuals and organisations who enable us to continue our work. A very big thank-you to:

- Sir John Hall Charitable Trust
- Worcester Trust
- Eureka Trust
- Sutherland Self Help Trust
- Farina Thompson Charitable Trust
- Sheelagh Thompson
- Pub Charity
- Lion Foundation
- Frozen Funds Charitable Trust
- Mainland Foundation
- Jack & Marjorie Ferrier Charitable Trust
- John Morrissey
- The Canterbury Community Trust
- Springhill Charitable Trust & Frimley Foundation
- Perry Foundation
- Southern Trust
- QSM Charitable Trust
- Maurice Carter Charitable Trust
- WHC Charitable Trust
- Mrs Pope's Charitable Trust
- Keith Laugesen Charitable Trust
- Lamar Charitable Trust
- J. Ballantyne & Co. Ltd

And to the many individuals who have gifted both money and time – a very big thank-you from us all at Hohepa Canterbury.



Hohepa
creating opportunities...

Administration:

23 Barrington Street, Christchurch, PO Box 28101, Christchurch 8242.
Telephone 03 332 3179. Fax 03 332 7066. canty@canty.hohepa.org.nz

Website: www.hohepa.org.nz

Farm: Cnr Trices & Sabys Roads, Halswell. Telephone (03) 322 6139

CUT ALONG THE LINE

Bev Morrissey House is nearing completion – please help us create a garden for our residents this summer.

Your name and address are important.
Please complete the details

Name _____

Address _____

Phone number _____

Email _____

I can donate \$45 \$150 \$70 \$95 towards the installation of pathways, garden courtyard and plantings

Or \$ _____

Enclosed is my cheque made out to Hohepa Canterbury

Please phone me to talk about my donation

Please send me information about making a gift to Hohepa Canterbury in my Will

Please remove my name from your mailing list

For Direct Debit donations to Hohepa Canterbury –
Bank Account No. 031594 0032732 00
Please insert your name in the Ref. box

All donations above \$5 are eligible for a tax rebate up to the limit of your income.

PLEASE POST TO:
HOHEPA CANTERBURY
PO BOX 28101, BECKENHAM
CHRISTCHURCH 8242