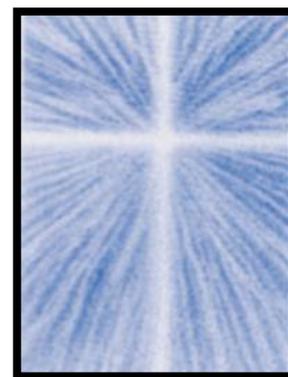


Marralomeda Newsletter

Autumn 2022



Update from Community Leader-

I'm not sure where this year has gone but we are certainly flying through it very quickly! It is lovely to see the colourful winter leaves falling and the shorter days are certainly noticeable.

We are remaining extra vigilant as the Covid pandemic continues and the number of infections remain high in Canterbury. I realise this is a difficult and frustrating time for everyone and it is sad at how many enjoyable activities aren't currently happening both for Community Members and for staff at the moment. I know you will all join me in thanking the staff and the Community Members for the extra care they are taking to ensure we are as safe as possible at Marralomeda. I never like to talk to soon, however we have been fortunate that there have been very few people within the Marralomeda Community who have contracted Covid. This is despite a number of people who the Community Members interact with having it at some of the day services they attend. We thank you all for your support and prayers as we continue to navigate this difficult situation. We have also had flu vaccinations administered for Community Members and staff as it is anticipated that the flu will hit very hard this year too.

The staff were recently acknowledged by the Marralomeda Board for all their dedication, hard work and extra effort during Covid. Gift baskets were organised and these were very well received by all the Marralomeda staff.

We all know this pandemic isn't over, however, we are now seeing hope with some events and activities gradually returning. It would be good to get your feedback about how you think Marralomeda has done through this time and whether there is anything we could do better. Please email me with any thoughts or feedback you have, or you are welcome to send something by post if you wish to remain anonymous.

We have some maintenance work scheduled at Marralomeda. The new roof at Ena Adams house is currently being installed and this will be wonderful. There is also going to be some work done on the drains of McHale, Annie Margaret and Ena Adams houses. This work is as a result of undiscovered earthquake damage and it will be covered by EQC, which is great. It will be done in June and July.

Tom Logan (who is on our Board) and I have been assessing the maintenance requirements for each of our homes, the Pike Centre and the office. A maintenance plan is being drawn up so we can ensure that we can address maintenance work that is a higher priority. We will then be able to schedule maintenance work for each year. That way we can be more proactive with our maintenance, which has got a bit behind over the last few years and many homes require an update.

Another exciting thing that has happened at Marralameda recently is that we have purchased a 10-seater Toyota Hi Ace van. The Community Members helped to take it for a test drive and make sure it was suitable to meet our needs. I hear it is great to drive and nice and spacious for everyone to travel in.

You may be aware that the Government has committed to establishing the Ministry for Disabled People. Work is well underway, and it will be up and running as a new Ministry on 1st July 2022. The contracts we currently have with the Ministry of Health will be transferred to the new Ministry for Disabled People and there will be no disruption to services. The Ministry aims to be more driven and led by disabled peoples' voices and they want to partner more with whanau. One of the new Ministry's visions is to extend the Enabling Good Lives Principles not only across everything they do but across everything the whole Government sector does to improve access for all New Zealanders. They are also apparently consulting widely with disabled people to come up with a wonderful name for the new Ministry. If you want to get more information about this or want to get on their mailing list please email establishmentunit@msd.govt.nz

We are hopeful that we will be able to join together for Family Day again this year. Please save the date and I will send out more information nearer the time:



Finally, we have many incredible people here at Marralameda and I want to acknowledge one of them. Margaret has recently celebrated her 90th birthday, which was a very enjoyable occasion both for Margaret and for everyone who celebrated with her. Margaret has also recently renewed contact with her sister and family in the North Island and they are now in touch with her regularly, which has been wonderful.

Happy Birthday Margaret!

*Karen Rickerby
Community Leader*

Update from Marralomedea Board-

This Trust report is being written to the sound of a downpour and an outside temperature of 8 degrees that is heralding the onset of winter. Keep warm everybody! I hope the slight relaxation of some of the Covid restrictions are making life a little easier for all the community members and staff. It has been a long difficult journey for everyone with a return to 'normal' someway off I fear.

Recently Family Representative Denise Holling made the decision to step down from the Board after many years of valuable service to Marralomedea families. She has been a major contributor to ensuring the Guardianship status of community members. While her contribution and presence will be missed I am pleased to say Lorraine Gibbs, Bernadine's mother, has agreed to look into the role as Family Representative. Because it is important that we build sustainability we are currently seeking interest from other suitable people who may be interested in joining the Marralomedea Trust Board.

In a few weeks the Board has a Strategic Planning Day. An important part of that day will be focussing on starting to embed a Tiriti framework into Marralomedea. This is something we have talked about for a long time so is an exciting opportunity to get started.

Thank You everyone, Community Members, Staff and Volunteers for your ongoing commitment to Marralomedea

The Marralomedea Board

Marralomedea Family Day

When: 1.30pm to 3.30pm on Sunday 31st July 2022

Where: St. Joseph's Parish Centre, Vagues Rd,
Papanui

Community Activities-

We have been enjoying many activities at Marralameda over autumn, even with the restrictions we have. Here are some lovely photos of what people have been doing recently.

Marralameda Community Members love to party, especially at our two-monthly birthday party which celebrates the people who have had a birthday during those months. Each party has a theme and the latest party was a Masquerade Party, so there were lots of masks.



Robyn and Jane



Sandy and Anna prepare the kai



Nigel, Jill
and Tim



Michael V and Pat W
have mastered the art
of disguise!



Jane enjoys getting
her birthday party
photo taken through
the frame



Sarah, May and Batin preparing the Birthday cake



Batin helps Pat to put her lipstick on



Virginia butters the bread rolls



Kathryn loves to do colouring in



Joan and Karen take in the lovely scenery in Akaroa



Brian, Judith, Jill, Michael and Margaret from Ena Adams enjoy getting out somewhere different for a walk



Sarah, Michael T and Nigel at the beach



Marralameda gathers together for a picnic on a beautiful day



Pat and Brian



Michael V



Grace Margaret and Jill





Michael T and Neville



Susan and Nigel



Kathryn, Grace, Virginia and Jane have fun making hamburgers for tea



Pat unpacks the groceries when they are delivered



Jane cuts her birthday cake

The people from McAuley went on a visit to Mona Vale



Tim



Bernadine

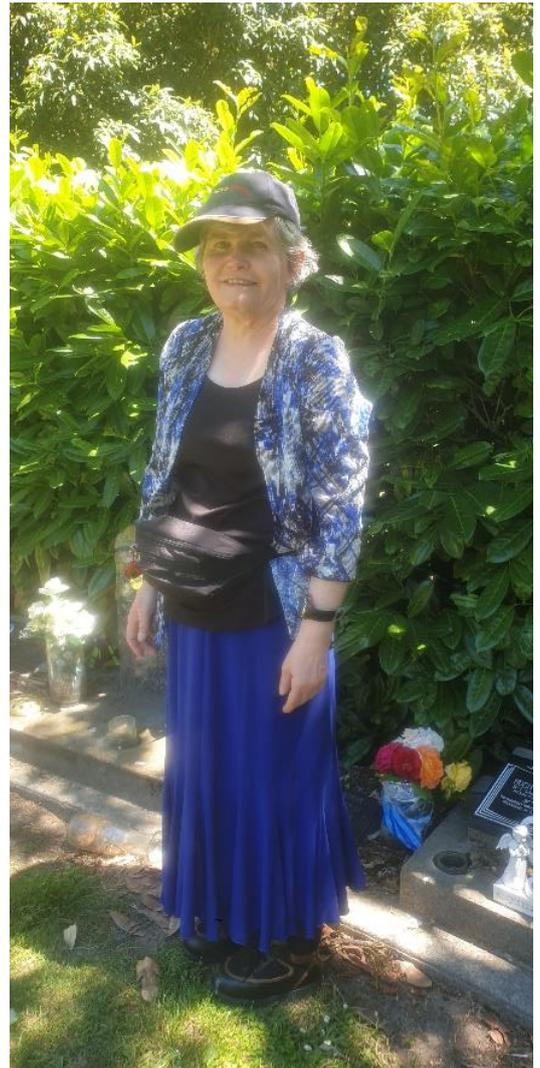


Karen

Joan



Grace is very proud of the bag she made at Skillwise



Karen visits her parent's graves



Batin and May in New Brighton

Michael T and Nigel colour up the countryside





May sweeps up some of the autumn leaves



Virginia loves to share the cooking



Amy prepares the vegetables



Sarah and May at a pamper session



The people from McHale house enjoying a beautiful autumn day- Michale T, Susan, Nigel and Neville



Margaret celebrates her birthday with Jill, Brian, Anna, Judith, Michael V and Pat



Kathryn helps with the vacuuming



Michael V, Tim and Michael T visit Ferrymeade

Staff Updates-

Marralameda has welcomed Lina Vula as a Support Worker and Mandy Trounson as a casual reliever to Marralameda in the last few months. It is very difficult to recruit new staff at the moment. Therefore we are still advertising for another casual reliever. We are also about to advertise a fixed term one year position for a Residential Assistant to assist with supporting Community Members while the other Residential Assistants take their outstanding leave. If you know of anyone who would be an awesome addition to our Marralameda team and who wants to support Community Members at home and out in the community then we would love to hear from them.

Janine Hansen has recently been appointed to the Finance and Administration Co-ordinator role and is getting up to speed with our processes and is settling in well. Janine is also going to be focusing on getting our new systems up and running as we are moving from MYOB to Xero and we are also moving our payroll online. Once we have changed systems, we envisage that Marralameda will have more specific information about what everything costs and it will assist us to move forward and meet the future challenges that more individualised disability support funding will bring in the future.

Pike Centre News-

As we are heading into winter, we have noticed all the leaves that are falling from the trees and their beautiful autumn colours, which means we have had a lot more leaves in our doorway that need to be vacuumed up.

During our Easter celebrations we held an Easter egg hunt, there were hidden Easter eggs in the gardens surrounding the Pike Centre and the Office, there was 1 “gold” egg. After we had found them all we were able to exchange these for a chocolate egg and the person who found the “gold” egg was rewarded with a special prize. The Golden egg was hidden in an extra hard place, Jane Howard found this, and she received a very cute marshmallow bunny.

Community Members and staff did a wonderful job of decorating the Pike Centre.





With the lovely spring weather, small groups have been out visiting Arion Farm, it is a lovely place to connect with the animals and nature.



Although our normal routine has not fully returned due to covid conditions we are trying our best to retain a sense of normality. On a Wednesday afternoon we have our own Marralameda choir, singing all our favourite songs that we would sing in the Friendship Choir group and the Humdingers choir.

On a Friday morning we have been introduced to Arts for us via Zoom. It is a fantastic group session getting in touch with different people from all over Christchurch. We use our mind and bodies to create art and movements to music which relate to the theme that we are given on the day. This has been an enjoyable addition to our activities programme and helps us to keep creating new community connections.



"Pumpkin Muffins"

Nigel, Joan and Melanie showed two judges from the Canterbury Horticultural Society around the Marralameda gardens for our entries into the Edible Garden Awards. We have been informed that we are one of the award winners for the 2022 Waipapa Papanui-Innes Edible and Sustainable Garden Award. Once we are open again for visitors they will come and present us with our award, that is something we are really looking forward to.



"Pumpkins grown at the back of McAuley"



We had lots of fun activities to celebrate St Patrick's Day in March. Allan helped to decorate some of the shamrock decorations.

We hope that you all keep warm during winter
Love and Blessings from the Pike Centre
(This update was constructed with the help of Margaret Bowers, May Carpenter, Pat Gray and Karen Hall)

Policy Update-

We have set up a three yearly cycle for reviewing our Policy and Procedure Manual. If you would like to view any of the Marralomedas Policies, then please let me know.

We are due to review the following Policies in the next few months:

- Changeover Process
- Community Members' Files
- Financial Management
- House Cleaning
- Household Finance Systems
- Media Communication
- Responsibilities of Key Person
- Sleepovers
- Staff Management at Marralomedas