



TE AWA
Lifecare Village

TE AWA

August 2026

PARTYLINE



A word from Nikki

August has certainly been another busy month at Te Awa – although that seems to be something we say every month! It's traditionally one of our busiest times for activities, and this year has been no exception.

Mandy, Connagh and I attended the Retirement Villages Conference at the SkyCity Auckland Convention Centre. It was a valuable opportunity to hear from political commentators and industry panels, connect with other village owners and managers, and learn more about what lies ahead for our sector. The conference closed with inspirational speaker Josh Komen.

We were also pleased to welcome Hon Louise Upston to Te Awa during August. There was some very good discussion, particularly around the proposed reform of the Retirement Villages Act and what this may mean for villages and residents in the future.

Closer to home, the pathway down to our Stage 3 wetlands is now complete and provides another lovely spot to enjoy a walk around Te Awa.

And what better way to chase away the winter blues than with our Peak Season Social! It was a wonderful opportunity to get together, enjoy a superb dinner, great music and hit the dance floor.

Now we look forward to September and the beginning of spring – warmer days, longer evenings and plenty more happening around the village. We'll also start welcoming home some of our residents from their overseas adventures.

Here's to spring!



Dancing away the winter blues

There's nothing quite like good food, great music and even better company to brighten up the middle of winter!

Our Peak Season Social, held in The Woolshed in mid-August, saw Happy Hour roll seamlessly into a wonderful party dinner, with many of our Care residents joined by family and friends for the evening.

Chef Lorenzo and his team treated everyone to a delicious winter feast of slow-cooked lamb shanks and vegetables, followed by a decadent Italian-inspired cream dessert. Molte grazie, Lorenzo!

With The Woolshed and tables beautifully decorated, the evening then stepped up a beat as Cambridge Rotary's eight-piece Bruised Brothers Band took to the floor. Their fantastic selection of well-known hits from the '50s and '60s soon had toes tapping – and it wasn't long before plenty of residents were up dancing too.

Warm, lively and filled with laughter, it was exactly what a mid-winter celebration should be – a fab night.

Te Awa Lifecare Village | 7 Arikirua Lane, Cambridge
07 827 6103 | admin@teawalifecare.nz

Events to watch out for in August



Sunday 6th September
Father's Day Brunch & Lunch

Spend some quality time with Dad or Grandad this Father's Day with brunch or lunch at The Woolshed. Relax over something delicious in our warm and welcoming surroundings, while Alan Sayer plays favourite tunes from the '50s and '60s. Good food, great music and even better company – the perfect way to celebrate Dad!



Friday 18 September 9am-2pm
A day out at Takapoto Estate

We're off to Takapoto Estate for a day of showjumping action! Come along and watch talented riders and magnificent horses take to the arena, while enjoying the beautiful surrounds of this world-class equestrian venue. A lovely opportunity to get out and about, enjoy the atmosphere and experience something a little different.



Weekend of 2 + 3 October
We're off to WoW!

The bags will soon be packed for our weekend away in Wellington to experience the World of WearableArt! This much-anticipated trip is now fully booked, with residents looking forward to a fabulous weekend of incredible costumes, creativity and entertainment. Wellington, here we come!



Wedding Belles – dresses, memories and stories through generations

Arnold Cottage was transformed into a beautiful walk through wedding history over the weekend of 21 and 22 August, as Te Awa's Wedding Belles Exhibition brought together gowns, photographs and precious memorabilia belonging to residents, their families and staff.

The exhibition was the culmination of many hours of work by our Activities Co-ordinator, Tracy, with wonderful support from residents and staff who opened their wardrobes, albums and memory boxes to share some very special pieces of family history.

And what stories there were to tell.

Among the oldest treasures was an Edwardian two-piece cream silk wedding gown first worn by Laura McKeague in 1907, then altered and worn again by her daughter Joane in 1945. There were also beautiful christening gowns that had passed through generations, including one from Prue Ludbrook's family, first worn in 1918 and later by family members through to 1967.

Another remarkable piece belonged to Bernice Beard, who married in 1940 wearing a cream slipper satin gown with tiny self-covered buttons, a long pointed train and a tulle veil finished with orange blossom. Elizabeth Burns' 1940 wedding gown was equally elegant, with a shirred satin bodice, full skirt and embroidered veil, while a sprig of white heather sent from Scotland was worn at the neckline.

There were wonderful personal touches too. Diana Dunn made her own satin and Alençon lace gown for her 1965 wedding, as well as her bridesmaid's dress and her mother's outfit. Susan Waddell also made her own wedding dress in 1969 from beautiful French lace given to her by her mother.

Some stories brought plenty of smiles. Margaret Gasquoine's 1957 wedding took place on a wet and windy day, with her headpiece blowing off twice, while schoolchildren outside the church sang "Here Comes the Bride". Her daughter later wore the same

dress for her own wedding in 1989.

Nikki Belfield's 1992 gown was designed by Nikki and made by her mother-in-law, with pearls hand-sewn into the cream dupion silk. The detachable overskirt meant she could remove the train and "dance the night away" – although Nikki still wonders why she dyed her hair dark brown for the occasion!

Perhaps most poignant of all was the wedding photograph of Eve Monteith, whose 1953 marriage to Stu lasted an incredible 72½ years. The photograph was displayed at Eve's funeral earlier this year and became the inspiration for Wedding Belles itself.

Alongside the gowns were wedding shoes, invitations, veils, photographs and keepsakes, creating a beautiful picture of how weddings – and fashions – have changed through the generations.

Saturday saw Arnold Cottage opened to the public, with visitors welcomed with a glass of bubbles, generously sponsored by Mandy, making for a wonderfully convivial way to wander through the exhibition.

Two local florists also added their magic, donating gorgeous bouquets for raffles. Congratulations to Carol Tancock, Gail Mayal and Rona Voice, our lucky winners, and a huge thank you to Frankie & Flora Flower Truck and Ivy Florist for their beautiful creations.

Best of all, the weekend raised an incredible \$1,135 for Women's Refuge.

A wonderful result from an exhibition that celebrated so much more than beautiful dresses – it celebrated love, family, history and the stories that are carried from one generation to the next. staff alike.



INTRODUCING Maddison Holly

Front of House



If you've stopped by the café at Te Awa, chances are you've been greeted by the friendly face of Maddison Holly, who has recently celebrated two years as part of our Front of House team.

Originally from Matamata, where she grew up and went to school, 24-year-old Maddison now lives on a farm in Morrinsville with her partner Phillip, while making the trip to Cambridge each day for work.

Hospitality has always been Maddison's thing, and one day she'd love to own her own pub. For now, though, she's very happy at Te Awa – particularly because of the people.

"Everyone is always up for a yarn," she says. Maddison loves catching up with residents, hearing their life stories and being a friendly listening ear when someone feels like a chat. And there's never a shortage of advice coming back her way either!

The message she hears most? "Go for it, you're young!" Closely followed by, "We were married at your age!" Maddison laughs.

When she's not behind the café counter, you'll often find Maddison pulling on her gumboots and helping Phillip on the farm, including milking and lending a hand wherever needed. She's even raising her own calf, aptly named Sausage. And yes, practical farm girl Maddison fully intends for Sausage to eventually live up to her name!

A self-confessed homebody, Maddison enjoys outdoor adventures with friends and hopes to travel more in the future, with Croatia firmly on the wish list.

Family is hugely important to her. She describes her mum, Rebecca, as her best friend and biggest inspiration – hardworking, straight-up and honest. Maddison also treasures being big sister to her younger siblings, aged nine and seven, and helping guide them as they grow.

Warm, practical, hardworking and always ready for a good yarn – Maddison fits right in at Te Awa.

More photos visit: www.teawalifecare.nz/wedding-belles

From our Care Centre



From focaccia to flowers - it's been a busy month

It's been another wonderfully busy month for our care residents, with plenty of activities, special visitors and outings to keep everyone entertained. And with a few more fine days beginning to appear, it's been lovely to get outside for walks and enjoy a little sunshine.

There's certainly been plenty happening indoors too! Chef Lorenzo had residents rolling up their sleeves to make delicious focaccia bread, while mulled wine making proved equally popular – particularly the all-important tasting afterwards!

We've loved welcoming students from St Peter's School, who joined residents for activities and games, helped set up for our Peak Season Social, and even challenged us to a game of bowls. Let's just say there was a healthy dose of competition from both generations! A trip to the Aspire Dance Showcase

at St Peter's was another highlight, with an incredible display of talent and energy. We were also privileged to welcome Olympic rower Emma Twigg, who shared stories from her remarkable rowing career and brought along her Olympic medals for residents to see, hold and even try on.

The beautiful Wedding Belles Exhibition gave residents the opportunity to reminisce over wedding gowns, photographs and memorabilia from generations past, while our Daffodil Day preparations saw plenty of gorgeous little posies created from bright yellow daffodils, greenery and a

pop of fragrant freesia.

Of course, our regular favourites have continued too – Ladies Chat, Table Talk, standing and balancing exercises, word games, Happy Hour, knitting and crochet, arts and crafts, and plenty more.

Outside, spring is making itself known. Lambs are bouncing around the paddocks, daffodils are popping up and flowers are beginning to appear on the surrounding bushes.

There's plenty planned for September too – and with warmer, longer days on their way, we say bring on spring... and roll on summer!

Scan the QR code for Care Centre calendar

