



TE AWA
Lifecare Village

TE AWA April 2026 PARTYLINE



A word from Nikki

It's been another busy month here - one that seems to have flown by in no time at all. Perhaps the couple of long weekends, with Easter and Anzac Day, have something to do with that!

Our Anzac Day Service was a particularly special morning of remembrance. Thank you to everyone who took part and helped make it such a meaningful occasion. A special mention to Gerry Wake, our centenarian, who delivered The Ode so beautifully. It was a lovely way to honour the day, followed by a traditional finish - an Anzac biscuit, a nip of whisky, and a warm cup of tea or coffee. Thank you also to the residents who put time and care into creating the wreaths - they looked absolutely stunning and were very much admired. On the health front, our combined Covid and Flu vaccinations ran smoothly, and we appreciate everyone who participated.

Many of you will have now received your new gate access pass for the walking path leading from Te Awa out to the Cambridge Road footpath. It's great to hear it's already proving useful. For our care residents and their families, if you'd like to enjoy a walk without taking the long way around, there is a spare pass available at Reception - just pop in and ask.

Finally, it's been wonderful to see continued interest in village life, with villa sales going very well. Our newest care wing, RD4, is now at 50% capacity, and it's always a pleasure to welcome new residents into our community.

As always, thank you for being part of Te Awa.



A culinary adventure to remember

Recently, a group of our residents swapped the comforts of Cambridge for a delicious day out in Auckland - thanks to the wonderful organisation of Barbara Edgecome. The destination? A Saturday Supper Club with the ever-fabulous Peta Mathias.

The day began promptly at 10am with a warm welcome, followed by a lively cooking demonstration. For those feeling brave, there was the option to roll up sleeves and get hands-on - though observing with a glass in hand was equally acceptable! By 12.15pm, everyone was seated on the glassed-in floating terrace, ready to enjoy the fruits of their (and Peta's) labour.

The menu was a delightful mix of rustic charm and culinary flair. There was a version of pissaladière (a Southern

French favourite), cleverly adapted using flaky pastry and caramelised onions, alongside a versatile walnut sauce perfect for everything from pasta to roast chicken. The main event featured a "mi-cuit" style fish - though, in true Kiwi fashion, snapper took centre stage - roasted quickly and finished with olive oil and smoked sea salt, served with Provençal vegetables.

Dessert followed with a twist - originally strawberries in pastis and pepper, but beautifully reimaged using peaches, raspberries and pomegranate seeds. A true celebration of seasonal ingredients and creative flair.

What stood out most was the spirit of the day - improvisation, laughter, and a shared love of good food. As Peta herself demonstrated, cooking doesn't need to be complicated to be fabulous.

Feedback from the group? A thoroughly enjoyable outing, filled with flavour, fun, and great company. And while there was mention of those who "refuse to go home" being put on dishes... we understand everyone made it back to Te Awa, well-fed and smiling!



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Stunning new regional theatre

Written by Doug Arcus

“Absolutely amazing”, “Superb architecture, artistry, technology, location and materials”, “Wonderful public spaces overlooking the river and Parana Park beyond”, “What a great asset for Hamilton”, “Fantastic” - these were just some of the comments made by the 21 Te Awa residents who enjoyed a recent private tour of the new BNZ Theatre in Hamilton.

Following the closure of Founders Theatre (for safety reasons) in 2016, the concept for a new theatre was initially driven by Momentum Waikato, an independent community foundation that seeks to build “a better Waikato for everyone, forever”. Momentum is particularly focused on transformational change for the region and sought to re-establish a civic stage while reconnecting the city to its river.

The theatre design was led by two significant entities - Charcoalblue, a London-based firm specialising in theatre and venue design worldwide (and therefore well placed to lead the technical design, including sightlines and acoustics), and Jasmax, a leading New Zealand and Australian architecture and design firm.

The new theatre is located on the site of the old Hamilton Hotel. The hotel became noteworthy when the newly crowned Queen Elizabeth II stayed there during her visit to the Waikato in 1953. That heritage has been thoughtfully incorporated into the theatre. The entire façade facing Victoria Street and Sapper Moore-Jones Place has been preserved and

restored, including the attractive arched lattice windows. The original oak hotel staircase has been integrated into the public flow of the theatre, and even the original vanity/dresser used by the Queen has been included in one of the bathrooms.

The theatre can seat up to 1,300 patrons. For pop concerts, much of the stalls seating can be rolled away (under the stage), and the floor hydraulically levelled to create standing (and dancing!) room for up to 1,000 people. With the remaining seating in place, the theatre can accommodate up to 1,700 patrons in this configuration.

The theatre is three storeys high. Both the Circle and the Balcony extend well forward over the stalls, meaning no seated patron is more than 25 metres from the stage - a remarkable achievement, especially in contrast to Founders Theatre which, despite a similar capacity, had a single raked floor placing those at the back much further away.

The stage is enormous, as is the fly tower, which can lower no fewer than 75 bars on ropes down to the side-stage floor (for curtains, sets and

lighting). Given that a large fly tower can compromise classical acoustics, the theatre is equipped with a suspended sound shell that can be lowered over the stage, effectively transforming a production theatre into a concert auditorium. In addition, the theatre includes space for a pit orchestra for opera, ballet and musicals.

One of the standout features of the auditorium is the superb woodwork throughout. While it enhances acoustics, the graceful curves of the forward-facing solid walnut balustrades in both the Circle and the Balcony add significantly to the artistry and ambience. Much of this work was completed by an Auckland boat builder. During the tour, one Te Awa resident - a keen wood craftsman - remarked that he had “never seen better woodwork!”

All Te Awa residents on the tour felt an immense sense of civic pride that this world-class facility is right here in the Waikato.

As one resident commented at the end of the tour: “Not bad for a cow town!”

The Te Awa Music Lovers (TAML) is an interest group which has been formed at Te Awa to attend together live classical music concerts in the region. If you are interested in being included in TAML, please contact the current co-ordinator, Doug Arcus.



INTRODUCING

Sir Mows-a-Lot

The Robotic Lawnmower



Meet Sir Mows-a-Lot

If you've been wandering the grounds lately and spotted a small orange and black character quietly going about his business, you've already met our newest team member—Sir Mows-a-Lot.

Each morning at first light, while most of us are still contemplating that first cup of tea, Sir Mows-a-Lot is up and away. With no fuss and certainly no fanfare, he sets off on his daily mission - gliding across his little "patch" of lawn. Sometimes in a perfectly straight line, sometimes... well... taking a more creative approach. We like to think he's just adding a bit of personality to the place.

All day long, he diligently trims away, keeping those lawn tips neatly in check. Come evening, he quietly returns to his docking station, job done, ready to recharge and do it all again tomorrow. A creature of habit, you might say.

Now, if you're hoping to strike up a conversation, don't be offended—Sir Mows-a-Lot isn't much of a talker. In fact, even when he's parked up alongside his other robotic companions, there's very little chitchat. Strong, silent types, the lot of them.

Rest assured, though, he's here to lend a helping hand (or blade!) to our wonderful gardening team- not replace them. The lawns are still very much under human supervision, with Sir Mows-a-Lot simply taking care of his own corner of the world.

With autumn just around the corner and leaves soon to fall, we suspect he'll have plenty to keep him busy. So next time you see him meandering by, give him a nod- he may not wave back, but he's doing his bit to keep Te Awa looking its best.

Making time for what matters

Easter has always been a time for connection—an opportunity to pause, gather, and spend meaningful moments with loved ones. With long weekends often filling quickly with travel and family commitments, finding that time isn't always easy.

This year, Te Awa took a thoughtful approach by hosting an Easter lunch ahead of the holiday weekend, creating space for residents and their families to come together without the usual time pressures. It meant families could enjoy a relaxed visit, share a meal, and focus on what truly matters—being present with one another.

The lunch itself was a wonderful success, with a

warm atmosphere, plenty of conversation, and a real sense of community felt throughout the room. More importantly, it gave families the flexibility to celebrate together, while still making the most of their Easter plans.

Sometimes it's not about when you celebrate, but that you do—and this was a lovely reminder of just how important those shared moments are.

From our Care Centre



Full days, fresh air and plenty to look forward to

It's been another busy and rewarding month in the Care Centre, with plenty happening to keep both residents and staff on their toes. With the cooler months approaching, a key focus has been on health and wellbeing. Our recent round of Covid and Flu vaccinations went smoothly, and we extend a sincere thank you to all who took part. It's an important step in helping protect our more vulnerable residents as winter draws closer.

Of course, it hasn't all been about staying well - there has been plenty of enjoyment along the way too. Our pony grooming sessions have once again proven a highlight. There's something wonderfully calming about spending time with these gentle animals, and it's hard to say

who enjoys it more - the ponies or the residents. Either way, it's time well spent and leaves everyone feeling a little brighter.

Tuesday afternoons continue to bring the ever-popular Retroflicks, offering a variety of films to suit all tastes - not always at the same time, but that's part of the fun. Meanwhile, our spring bulk planting effort was a great success. There's now a sense of anticipation as we keep a close eye on the pots, waiting to see what will emerge in the weeks ahead.

In the lead-up to Anzac Day, residents rolled up their sleeves for a spot of baking, producing a fine batch of Anzac biscuits - always a welcome treat. Our Country Drives have also remained a favourite, giving residents

the chance to get out and about and see the ever-changing Cambridge landscape.

Looking ahead to May, there's plenty to be excited about. St Peter's School will be visiting with musical performances, including ukulele and piano, and lending a hand with a sandwich-making day. We're also looking forward to Martyn Dunn's MG Experience - scarves and sunglasses at the ready. Add to that a Kapa Haka performance from Cambridge Primary School and a men's outing to Ross Brothers' Museum, and it's shaping up to be another full and enjoyable month ahead.

Scan the QR code for Care Centre calendar

