



TE AWA
Lifecare Village

TE AWA

August 2025

PARTYLINE



A word from Nikki

Another month has flown by, and life continues to move at a steady and cheerful pace here at Te Awa Lifecare.

Our new refuge zone is now open on the road down to the villas, giving us an extra layer of safety while we also look into new pathway options to keep our village easy to navigate and enjoy. The non-slip coating is due to be applied in the very near future, so in the meantime, please take extra care if the surface is wet. Our message is still, to own the road if you are going up or down as a pedestrian, and if you are driving, please wait at the top or the bottom for any pedestrians.

The Friday night dinners have also been a real highlight. The feedback has been fantastic—there's nothing quite like good food and good company. The lamb shanks have been declared the clear winner so far, and I have to agree they were hard to beat!

In terms of progress around the village, Stage 3 is well underway with our second villa now in construction. If all goes to plan, we'll be welcoming our first residents there in November, which is very exciting.

Spring has also arrived a little early this year. The daffodils are out, the ducklings (all 13 of them!) are keeping us entertained, though sadly we're without lambs in the paddock this season as there was no ram to do the deed!

Looking ahead, the next month is set to be another busy one as we head into warmer weather, daylight saving, and the lead-up to Christmas. And if you see me hobbling—I've had a bit of knee surgery, so forgive me if I'm caught with my feet up! **Thanks, Nikki**



Life gets feathery at Te Awa

Life at Te Awa is never dull—and it just got a little more... feathery! We've welcomed 215 pheasants to our village, adding colour, curiosity, and a dash of chaos to our working farm.

Beyond the charm, these birds play a quiet role in supporting our wetlands, helping with insect control and seed dispersal, and enriching the habitat for other wildlife.

They've settled in beautifully, though traffic rules still seem optional. So, if you spot a flash of colour strutting across the path, give way—and savour the reminder that our village is alive with nature, big and small, feathered or otherwise.

Here's to sharing Te Awa with all its residents, two-legged and four-legged... and occasionally, flighty.



**Te Awa Lifecare Village | 1866 Cambridge Road
07 827 6103 | admin@teawalifecare.nz**

Events for the coming month - book your spot!



PLEASE JOIN US FOR A

FATHER'S DAY

Brunch

SUNDAY 7TH SEPTEMBER 11AM
AT THE WOOLSHED

COST FOR FAMILY & FRIENDS IS \$20
CARE RESIDENTS - FREE!

RSVP BY MONDAY 1ST SEPTEMBER TO
RECEPTION



Plantaholics at Arnold Cottage

The Plantaholics, a small U3A group from Hamilton with a maximum of 10 members, recently enjoyed a delightful visit to Arnold Cottage.

Their discussions often explore new and heritage plant varieties—both fruit and flowering—and they relish opportunities to explore gardens old and new. A historic cottage or villa is always a welcome bonus.

The morning was perfectly rounded off with a visit to the Café in the Woolshed, leaving everyone with fond memories and inspiration for their own gardening adventures.



Beauty Therapy

Winter Wellness Special
Available until 30 September 2025

- Back Massage
- Deluxe Facial
- Lower Leg & Foot Massage

Usually \$150
Now \$99

Bookings Essential!

Call or Text Michelle
027 286 9995
or book at Reception!



Blooming success for Daffodil Day

We had a fantastic fundraising event for Daffodil Day! The daffodils, generously donated by a local grower, sold out quickly, and our silent auction for the flower arrangements was a huge hit. Thanks to everyone who got involved, we raised \$520 for this important cause.

A special shout-out to Annette Wright and Welwyn Meradith for creating such stunning arrangements that brightened our day—and helped make a difference. We'll be sure to let you know when the next batch of flowers arrives, so you can continue to support this wonderful cause.



Te Awa Life Care Village
Would like to invite you to a

Wine & Cheese Tasting

on Thursday

2nd

October From 3–5pm

You can sample some amazing cheeses from Over the moon dairy, and our Mission Estate wines

Sue - Over the Moon Dairy
Rachel - Mission Estate Winery

WOOLSHED
COST: \$15

RVSP. FRIDAY 26TH SEPTEMBER
PLEASE BOOK AT RECEPTION
LIMITED SPACES AVAILABLE



\$15 EYEWEAR SERVICING

SPECIAL OFFER

\$15

+ \$5 second pair
Keep your glasses
clean, comfy &
crystal clear -
without leaving home!

\$15 for first pair | \$5 for second pair
WHY BOOK?

Avoid risky falls from poor vision
Save money on taxis to the optometrist
Extend the life of your glasses with regular TLC
Book now at Reception



Above: Paddy's daughter Sarah (L) and Haana (R). Right: Paddy Davis



Farewell Paddy Davis

Late in the month of July, our friend Paddy quietly left us.

The 96 year old matriarch left behind a large family, most of whom came to the Woolshed at 3pm on Friday, 1st August to celebrate her life, including 10 great grandchildren, and two more yet to be born.

Kindly, the family had invited us residents to join them in sharing a drink and a generous afternoon tea. Many memories were shared and the atmosphere was much more one of celebration than sadness. The occasion seamlessly morphed into Happy Hour, a social event at which Paddy always enjoyed the chat and the company. - Malcolm

Ralph Dearlove: One seed at a time

At Te Awa, you might spot resident Ralph Dearlove on a mission—often crouched, occasionally clambering up a tree, eyes scanning for the elusive Kahikatea seed.

His dedication is inspiring: seeds are carefully wrapped in wet tissue, tucked into recycled bread bags, and chilled in the fridge until the warmer months arrive.

Once ready, they are planted in seed boxes, kept moist with damp newspaper, and nurtured until tiny seedlings emerge. With an impressive 80% strike rate, these young trees will take around five years to reach half a metre. Ralph shares seedlings with Ngāti Hauā's nursery, takes a few across to the beach house, and has even had a few under the washing line—until Jill reminded him where the boundaries lie!

Ralph's quiet, meticulous foraging is a lesson in patience, recycling, and stewardship. One tree at a time, he's growing more than Kahikatea—he's growing a greener, thriving planet. Watch for him again next April, gathering seeds with his trademark care.



INTRODUCING

Lei Castro

Registered Nurse



Since joining the Care Centre team in October 2018, Registered Nurse Lei Castro has become a familiar, friendly face to residents and staff alike.

For Lei, coming to work feels like leaving one home and stepping into another. She loves the warm, supportive environment, the flexibility that allows her time with her young daughter, and the sense of family that comes with working alongside great colleagues and wonderful residents.

Originally from the Philippines, Lei first worked as a nurse while also helping her mother in the family pharmacy. But she had a dream to see more of the world and was drawn to New Zealand, which she'd heard was one of the safest places to live. Arriving here was no small step — her English was limited, but after three years of determination, she saved to sit her English exam and complete her Competency Assessment Programme (CAP), becoming a qualified Registered Nurse in New Zealand, and has built a new life with her husband, Eric.

Eric was once her neighbour back home, and now works as a barista at Robert Harris Café in Cambridge. Together they share their biggest joy — four-year-old Erica, born on her dad's birthday! Family remains close to Lei's heart, and she's hopeful her mother and brother will visit New Zealand next year.

When she's not at Te Awa, Lei enjoys travelling. She has already explored much of the North Island, from Cape Reinga to New Plymouth, though she's saving the South Island for a warmer season.

One cultural difference that surprised Lei was how common it is in New Zealand to have loved ones in care facilities. In the Philippines, multiple generations often share one home. Understanding both perspectives, Lei treasures the time she spends with residents — often sitting with them to catch the latest news together.

Now, with a home of her own and a career she loves, Lei is truly settled — and we're grateful she's chosen to make Te Awa her second home.

From our Care Centre



Scan the QR code to see what's happening next month in the Care Centre.



Life and laughter at the Care Centre

It's been a chilly month at the Care Centre, with crisp frosts keeping many of our activities indoors—but that hasn't dampened spirits one bit. Warmer days are just around the corner: new leaves are sprouting, and daffodils are shooting up in pots, bringing bursts of colour across the village.

Board games have proven a hit, with residents enjoying Connect 4, Snakes and Ladders, and Scrabble. The care lounge had a little shuffle too—moving the piano and repositioning the lounge suite in front of the TV so

the lads can watch the All Blacks in comfort this season.

We've had culinary delights too: Lorenzo popped in to help with a 'trip around France', making croissants in true teamwork style. Meanwhile, the knitters have been busy, gathering in a circle to chat and create—Tracy even joined in!

Looking ahead, another busy month awaits. Activities will include New Zealand Bird of the Year crafts and quiz, baking and asparagus roll afternoons, and a scenic walk down to Te Awa Pond. Residents have also

been working on creative wearable arts, set to be showcased at Happy Hour on the 19th—sure to be a huge success.

With regular favourites continuing—Jeopardy, Men's and Ladies' Groups, Sing Along with Jill, Bible Studies, town trips, and movies like Paddington—there truly is something for everyone. And with daylight savings approaching, mornings may be darker, but the long, golden evenings ahead promise plenty of laughter, conversation, and community warmth.

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