



TE AWA
Lifecare Village

TE AWA

July 2026

PARTYLINE



A word from Nikki

Winter has certainly made itself at home at Te Awa, but despite the frosty mornings, it's been another busy and enjoyable month throughout the village. One of the highlights was our first lambs of the season – a beautiful set of twins born out in the paddock. They certainly brought plenty of excitement to residents and staff alike and are already proving to be very popular visitors from afar.

Our Nurse's Clinic continues to be a valuable service for our village community. From wound care, B12 injections and a range of other treatments, being able to access this care onsite saves our residents the time, inconvenience and stress of travelling into town for appointments.

I'd also like to thank the residents who took the time to provide feedback to Waipā District Council regarding the roundabout and the visibility concerns. It's pleasing to see the surrounding shrubbery has now been trimmed back. We've also spotted both our Mayor and Deputy Mayor walking the roundabout, and continue to work with Council on other matters affecting our residents, including late-night noise and smoke from across the river from a fire.

While a number of our villagers have escaped overseas in search of warmer weather, we'd like to extend a very warm welcome to Tony, who has recently moved into Villa 55.

As always, the calendar for the month ahead is full of activities, outings and opportunities to connect. Before we know it, the first signs of spring will be here – and I don't think many of us will be complaining about that!



Winter walks and discoveries

There's something special about getting out and exploring our beautiful Waikato countryside, especially on a crisp winter's day. Recently, the Te Awa Walking Group enjoyed a scenic stroll around Lake Rotopiko, one of the region's many peat lakes, just south of Ōhaupō.

While the lake itself put on a spectacular show with its glass-like reflections, it was the towering remnant stands of ancient kahikatea trees that really captured everyone's attention. These magnificent native giants are a reminder of what much of the Waikato once looked like and provided the perfect backdrop for a leisurely walk and plenty of conversation along the way.

The Walking Group heads out regularly to explore a variety of local tracks and reserves, with walks chosen to suit the group. It's a relaxed way to enjoy the outdoors, discover different parts of the Waikato and spend time with fellow residents.

If you're interested in joining the Walking Group or would simply like to know more about upcoming walks, have a chat with Doug Arcus. New walkers are always welcome.

Te Awa Lifecare Village | 7 Arikirua Lane, Cambridge
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Events to watch out for in August



Fri 14th Aug 4:30pm - 6:00pm

Peak Season Social

Shake off the winter chill and join us for an evening of great company, live music, delicious food and warming winter drinks. Tickets are \$20 per person and include dinner and beverages. Care residents dine free. Please book with the Concierge Team by 7 August to secure your place.



Fri 21st Aug 1:00pm - 4:00pm

Residents + Their Families Only

Sat 22 Aug 1:00pm - 4:00pm

Residents + Public

Wedding Belles - Arnold Cottage

Step back in time and enjoy Wedding Belles, a special exhibition showcasing beautiful wedding dresses and treasured photographs belonging to both Te Awa residents and staff. Dating back as far as 1913, the collection offers a wonderful glimpse into more than a century of wedding fashion and memories.

Tickets go on sale from Reception from 3 August and are \$10 per person, with care residents attending free. Guests will be welcomed with a glass of bubbles or sparkling water, and there will also be raffles featuring stunning flower bouquets generously donated by local florists Ivy & Frankie and Flora.

Best of all, every dollar raised will be donated to Women's Refuge, making this a celebration with a very worthwhile cause.

IN REMEMBRANCE:

Gerry Wake

25 OCTOBER 1924 - 13 JULY 2026

Family, friends and Te Awa staff gathered on Saturday, 19 July, to celebrate the remarkable life of Gerry Wake, who passed away peacefully at the age of 101.

Gerry is survived by his son David (formerly a pilot with the RNZAF and Air New Zealand), daughters Chryl and Susie, the latter married to Ken Ludbrook, well known as the former owner of Leamington Pharmacy, along with many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Born in the village of Ingrave, Essex, Gerry joined the Royal Navy in 1943 at the age of 19 and served with a naval landing party during the D-Day campaign in Normandy. Like many servicemen of his generation, he spoke little of his wartime experiences, although he fondly recalled meeting General Bernard "Monty" Montgomery. At Te Awa, Gerry honoured his fellow servicemen by proudly reading The Oath at our ANZAC Day services for eight consecutive years.

Following the war, Gerry met the love of his life, Joan. "I knew a good thing when I saw it," he once said with his trademark sparkle. They married in 1955 and emigrated to New Zealand in 1963 as "Ten Pound Poms", travelling aboard the Canberra. After a short time in Takapuna, the family settled in Cambridge, where Gerry built a successful career in the insurance industry while Joan became well known in local theatre and music circles.

A talented sportsman, Gerry enjoyed cricket, table tennis and billiards throughout his life. His passion for billiards never faded, and even after moving to Te Awa six years ago, he



was rarely far from the billiard room, enjoying regular Friday afternoon matches with Richard Seabrook. On his 100th birthday, he was delighted to be surrounded by friends, fellow players and even New Zealand billiards champion Wayne Carey, who visited with the historic national trophy.

Residents will also remember Gerry happily tootling around the village on his mobility scooter, or spending sunny afternoons chatting with Peter beneath the tree near the main entrance. He had a genuine gift for connecting with people, and his warmth, humour and easy-going nature endeared him to residents and staff alike.

Gerry often said he considered himself lucky rather than fortunate, and that much of the happiness in his life was thanks to his beloved Joan, whom he described simply as "a beauty".

Gerry lived a full and remarkable life, leaving behind treasured memories for all who knew him. He will be greatly missed and warmly remembered.



Let the lambs come!

There's was plenty of excitement at Te Awa with the arrival of our first lambs of the season – a beautiful set of twins.

One of the things that makes Te Awa unique is that part of our village remains a working farm, despite being just minutes from the centre of Cambridge. Residents can enjoy watching the seasons unfold, with lambing being a particular favourite.

If these twins are anything to go by, there are plenty more adorable arrivals still to come!

IN REMEMBRANCE:

Farewell Mary

During afternoon tea in the Cottage on Tuesday, 21 July, members of the Te Awa Card Group gathered to raise a glass in memory of their dear friend, Mary Collins.

Helen Hicks reflected on how she and Mary established the Five Hundred Card Group many years ago. Mary was passionate about the game and was always willing to patiently guide those who were a little rusty or learning for the first time. Her enthusiasm, kindness and wicked sense of humour made her a much-loved member of the group and someone whose company was always enjoyed.

Mary will be greatly missed by everyone who had the pleasure of knowing her, especially her lifelong friend, Harley Bowler, who had known Mary since she was just 15 years old.

The Card Group extends its sincere sympathy to Harley and to Mary's family. Mary leaves behind many happy memories, and her place around the card table will be fondly remembered.



A step back through racing history



On a crisp winter's day earlier this month, a group of Te Awa residents enjoyed an outing to the Cambridge Stud Heritage Centre – a fascinating destination that proved to be a winner, whether you're a racing enthusiast or not.

The Heritage Centre brings to life the remarkable story of Cambridge Stud, from the vision of Sir Patrick and Lady Hogan through to its place today as one of the world's leading thoroughbred nurseries. Interactive displays, photographs, trophies and memorabilia provide a wonderful insight into New Zealand's rich racing and breeding history.

The visit sparked plenty of conversation, memories and admiration for one of Cambridge's most iconic success stories, making for a thoroughly enjoyable day out.

INTRODUCING

Ang Scott

Conceirge



If you've visited Te Awa recently, you've probably been welcomed by one of our newest team members, Ang Scott. Joining the Concierge team, Ang works across reception, administration and accounts, and has quickly become a familiar face around the village.

Originally from Tokoroa, Ang has always called the Waikato home. She is the proud mum of three adult children – two sons and a daughter – and says she loves this stage of life, where family relationships have grown into close friendships.

Ang says one of the things she enjoys most about her new role is getting to know the residents and their families. "The cheeky residents are my favourites," she laughs. "They certainly keep life interesting."

Outside of work, Ang enjoys walking, shopping, reading psychological thrillers by Freida McFadden, and watching rugby.

Three years ago, Ang and her daughter enjoyed an unforgettable trip through Europe, and she's already planning the next adventure. Ireland, Scotland and Wales are all firmly on her bucket list.

Working at Te Awa has also given Ang a new appreciation for aged care. Her father, who is 88 and "fit as a fiddle", recently moved into care following some health challenges. Seeing the active, independent lifestyle so many Te Awa residents enjoy has changed her perspective. "I now see aged care as a place where people continue living life, making friends and enjoying new experiences."

Home is a lifestyle block where Ang looks after cows and sheep, battles an endless supply of rabbits, and enjoys the community spirit of neighbours sharing fruit and homekill.

A classic gin and tonic is her favourite drink, while a warm chocolate brownie with cream and ice cream is her ultimate treat. Ang is also a passionate supporter of Breast Cancer Foundation NZ and Pink Ribbon events, honouring the memory of her mum, who sadly lost her battle with breast cancer.

From our Care Centre



Winter days filled with fun, friendship and creativity

While the temperatures may have dropped outside, there's certainly been no shortage of warmth, laughter and activity throughout the Te Awa Care Centre this past month.

Our residents have enjoyed a wonderful variety of activities, starting with creating beautiful clay trinkets, each one as unique as the person who made it. The Ladies Chat High Tea was another highlight, with elegant china, delicate club sandwiches and plenty of conversation making for a very special afternoon together.

Matariki provided the inspiration for a range of creative projects, including decoupage shell art, traditional weaving and preparing a hearty winter soup. There was plenty of chopping, peeling and teamwork involved before our kitchen team transformed the fresh ingredients into a delicious meal for everyone to enjoy.

For those cooler winter days, residents have relaxed with David Attenborough's fascinating nature documentaries and our ever-popular Retro Movie afternoons, which always spark fond memories and lively discussion. Our knitting and crochet group has also been stitching up a storm, while sing-along afternoons with Jill's and her team continue to have everyone tapping their feet and singing along to favourite tunes.

We rounded off the month in true Te Awa style with our own internal Commonwealth Games. From indoor bowls and javelin to shot put and a range of fun challenges, there was plenty of friendly competition and

even more cheering from the sidelines. Congratulations to everyone who took part – there are certainly a few residents who may need to invest in a bigger trophy cabinet after collecting so many medals!

The fun doesn't stop there. The students from St Peter's School will be welcomed back with big smiles for another special visit, heading out to the Aspire Dance Showcase, making warming mulled wine, and learning the art of baking focaccia with our talented Head Chef, Lorenzo. As always, there's never a dull moment at Te Awa.

Scan the QR code for Care Centre calendar

