



TE AWA
Lifecare Village

TE AWA PARTYLINE June 2025



A word from Nikki

It's an exciting time at Te Awa Lifecare, with plenty happening across the village. Stage 3 is well underway, and Villa 82 is already taking shape – it's beginning to look and feel like a real home! Roding and essential services are currently being installed as we continue to build our vibrant community.

Stage 2 is also nearing completion, with Villa 40 – the final villa in this stage – scheduled for handover in July. It's been fantastic to see new neighbours settling in and enjoying life at Te Awa.

In terms of development, we're expecting final certification for RD4 in July. Once confirmed, we'll arrange a resident tour so you can take a look and hear more about what's planned.

We've got a variety of musical events coming up, and residents are welcome to attend free of charge. A big thank you to Tracy, who works hard behind the scenes to secure tickets and organise these performances. Please do come along and support these events – they're a great way to connect and enjoy something special together.

Finally, our annual resident survey is now open. Hard copies are available in the library or you can complete it online. Honest feedback is vital – it's how we learn, improve, and continue to shape Te Awa to best meet your needs. Your input helps us create a better place to live for everyone. Surveys are due back by 13 July.

Thanks, Nikki



Pictured (back row, left to right): Jillian Reakes, Chas Cresswell, Ben Ede (Year 13, Cambridge High School), Hugh Jackson, Stephen Ede (Year 10, Cambridge High School), and Ralph Dearlove. Front row (left to right): Malcolm Baigent, Jill Wills, Richard Carr, and John Crabb.

Scan the QR code to watch the live streaming of the Young Farmers Grand Final Season 57 in Invercargill 3-5 July 2025
[Click here for link](#)



A visit from Waikato/BOP Young Farmers

On the Saturday afternoon of Matariki weekend, we were delighted to host a representative from the Waikato/Bay of Plenty Young Farmers at short notice.

Hugh Jackson, a 26-year-old with a leadership role in the Hamilton Young Farmers Club, spoke to a small group of residents – many of them former farmers – about his busy career and involvement in the organisation.

After completing an Agricultural Commerce degree at Massey University, Hugh returned to the family farm at Te Akau, where he now works alongside his father fattening bull calves. The Jackson family name is well-known in the region and recognised by several of our residents.

The visit sparked lively discussion about farming practices, particularly livestock raising, and Hugh impressed everyone with his confident, personable, and knowledgeable manner.

We were also generously gifted a copy of 50 Years Young: A History of the Young Farmer of the Year by Kate



Taylor, which is now available in the village library for anyone interested in having a read.

We thank Hugh for his time and wish him every success in his future endeavours.

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– Malcolm



Honouring our own: Residents restore memorials to local heroes



On the grounds of St Andrews Anglican Church in Cambridge, two commemorative seats have long stood as tributes to local men who gave their lives in service during World War II. Recently, these memorials caught the eye—and the hearts—of two residents, John Steel and Ralph Dearlove. Saddened by the state of the seats around Anzac Day, they decided to act, restoring not only the wood but also the memory of those for whom the seats were dedicated.

The restoration was a labour of respect and community spirit. Rotten sections were carefully cut out and replaced, broken backs were mended, and both seats were lovingly repainted in Air Force Blue—a colour chosen to honour their military connections.

Remembering Leslie Norman Buttimore and William Upton Hewett

One seat commemorates Leslie Norman Buttimore, born in Cambridge on 5 June 1920. Leslie was the sixth son of Edward and Elsie Buttimore, educated at Cambridge Primary and High School, and a keen rugby follower, swimmer, and scout. Before joining the RNZAF, he worked locally and was a member of the St Andrew's Service Guild. Leslie enlisted as a Wireless Operator/Air Gunner on 28 December 1941. After training in New Zealand and Canada, he was posted to the United Kingdom and later to Scotland, where he was killed in a training accident on 7 August 1943,

aged just 23. Leslie is buried in Dunure Cemetery, Ayrshire, Scotland.

The other seat remembers William Upton Hewett, known as Bill, who was born in Palmerston North but moved to Cambridge with his family as a child. Bill was a keen sportsman, excelling in tennis and golf, and even served as the Senior Champion of the Cambridge Golf Club. He joined the RNZAF in 1940, initially training as a pilot before becoming an Observer. After completing his training in Canada, Bill was lost at sea when his ship, the SS Yngaren, was torpedoed by a German U-boat on 12 January 1942, while en route to Britain. He was 29 years old and is commemorated on the Ottawa Memorial.

A Community That Cares

The restoration of these seats is more than just a repair job—it is a gesture of remembrance and respect. It is a reminder that the people of Cambridge care deeply about their history and the sacrifices made by those who came before them. John and Ralph's efforts ensure that the

memories of Leslie Buttimore and Bill Hewett—and the values they stood for—continue to be honoured in our community.

As we reflect on their stories, we are reminded that it is locals caring about locals, even those who have long passed, that keeps the spirit of our town alive.

There's a lot on this month at Te Awa



Fri 25th Jul 5:00pm - 8:00pm

Te Awa Winter Shindig - Woolshed

Check our activities calendar online



Village



Homestead

Cone zone chronicles

Yes, the roadworks outside Te Awa are still going... and yes, we see the cones too!

While it's been a test of patience (and suspension), there's method in the madness. A whole lot of dirt has been moved and compacted to level out the Te Awa side with the other – no small feat.

The good news? The end is nigh! Soon we'll be enjoying a wider, smoother road without the sea of orange. Thanks for hanging in there, everyone – we're nearly cone-free!



INTRODUCING

Billy Chan

Te Awa's new chef



We're delighted to introduce Billy Chan, who joined the Te Awa kitchen team five months ago and has already made a great impression with his skills, calm nature, and creative flair.

Originally from Hong Kong, Billy moved to New Zealand in 2010 to study accountancy at AUT. After completing his degree, he found opportunities in the field limited and made a career pivot—following in his father's footsteps (a Head Chef at a hospital in Hong Kong) and training as a chef at NZMA. His two-year course included a six-month internship at a Hong Kong-style restaurant on Dominion Road, Auckland.

Billy relocated to Hamilton after a friend recommended him for a café role and now commutes to Te Awa each day. He enjoys working in a supportive and relaxed environment and values the cultural diversity of the kitchen team—with chefs from India, Italy, Thailand, and Asia, all contributing flavours from home to the menu.

In December 2023, Billy married Ada—also from Hong Kong—who works as a Kindacare teacher in Hamilton. Their summer wedding was held in Queenstown, with both families travelling from Hong Kong to celebrate. The couple honeymooned in Hong Kong and Japan before Ada had to return to New Zealand due to work commitments. Billy continued the honeymoon!

Outside of work, Billy is studying horticulture part-time through NZMA. He's looking forward to designing his own vegetable garden when he and Ada buy their first home. While owning a restaurant remains a long-term dream, for now, Billy is focused on building a future with Ada and growing his skills at Te Awa.

From our Care Centre



A Creative and Musical June at Te Awa Lifecare

June has been a colourful, crafty, and joy-filled month at Te Awa's Care Centre, with Matariki at the heart of many of our activities.

Residents rolled up their sleeves to prepare warming pots of soup to enjoy together, and got hands-on weaving flax roses – a nod to traditional skills and celebration. Paper flowers, dreamcatchers, crochet hearts and winter paintings also added a creative buzz around the centre.

We've had some truly special musical moments too. The powerful rhythms of the Wai Taiko Japanese Drummers brought a new energy to our week, while favourites Jill (on piano) and Alan Sayers (with his trusty guitar) got toes tapping and voices singing along to much-loved tunes.

To round off the month, we put some of our homegrown grapefruit and oranges to good use – making delicious marmalade that's now tucked safely into jars. We think Paddington Bear would love a slice for his sandwiches!

Looking ahead, July is shaping up to be just as exciting. The Cambridge Big Little Band will be performing at the Woolshed, and mid-month, the fabulous Mighty River Harmony Concert will also take the stage. A huge thank you to Tracy for organising these brilliant musical treats.

We're also introducing something new – a Show and Tell session, giving residents the chance to share a treasured item or memory. We're sure there'll be some unexpected and heartwarming stories revealed!

With regular craft and fitness classes continuing, and a busy calendar ahead, it won't be long before we're turning the page to August. But for now, we'll keep crafting, laughing, singing – and maybe sneaking a little spoonful of marmalade.

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