



TE AWA
Lifecare Village

TE AWA March 2026 PARTYLINE



A word from Nikki

What a wonderfully busy month it's been. The Cambridge Autumn Festival has been in full swing, and it's been a pleasure to see our village come alive in the evenings - guests arriving, a hum of anticipation, and plenty of smiling faces ready to enjoy what's on offer. There's something special about being part of a wider community celebration right on our doorstep.

We've also had the pleasure of welcoming some new residents to the village - Margaret and Howard Wright (Villa 36), and Colin and Marilyn Parker (Villa 2). We're delighted to have you join our community and hope you're already feeling right at home.

On another note, I'd personally like to say a big thank you to everyone who supported my slightly "crazy" idea of painting the wetlands fence. What turned into a five-day project was made all the more enjoyable by the many hands involved. I loved being down there, paintbrush in hand, getting to know some of you better—although I'm still discovering the odd splash of paint a week later!

A quick health reminder—our combined Covid and Flu vaccinations will be available Tuesday 7 April. If you're keen to "line up both arms," pop your name down at Reception and complete the consent form. We're hearing this season's flu variant is particularly unpleasant, so vaccination is a great way to reduce severity.

I'll also be away from 14 April, heading off on a short OE to Vietnam. While away, Shirley and Fiona will keep the nurse clinic running smoothly.

Wishing you all a very happy and restful Easter break



Many hands, one beautiful fence

If you've strolled along the wetlands recently, you may have noticed something looking particularly sharp—the freshly painted fence, now standing proud thanks to a true Te Awa team effort.

What started as a "small job" quickly revealed itself to be a bit of a mammoth task, eventually stretching over three days. But with paint brushes in hand, and a wonderful mix of residents and staff rolling up their sleeves, the project became something much more than just maintenance—it became a shared experience.

There were plenty of smiles along the way, not to mention some one rather fetching apron making an appearance. Regular coffee breaks (featuring real coffee, of course) and a generous supply of treats kept spirits high and energy levels up. As always, it was the conversations, laughter, and

camaraderie that made the time fly.

The effort didn't go unnoticed either. With the Te Awa River Trail running alongside, there was a steady stream of passersby commenting on how great the fence was looking. There may have even been the odd cheeky remark about "slave labour"—all taken in good humour!

In the end, it's a perfect example of what makes this community so special. Many hands truly do make light work, and the result is something everyone can be proud of. A big thank you to all who chipped in—what a fantastic job!



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

Events to watch out for in April



Cafe Hours over Statutory Days

Easter: The cafe will be open over Easter on reduced hours of 8am–2pm on Good Friday through to Easter Monday.

Anzac: We will be open from 1pm on Anzac Day (Saturday 25th), and open from 8am–4.30pm on Monday 27th even though a public holiday.

There will be the village morning tea on Monday 27th, however no village meeting that day.



Boon Street Art Festival & Lunch at Gothenburg - 17th April

Discover Hamilton's vibrant street art scene on the Boon Street Art Tour—an inspiring guided walk through bold murals and creative stories that bring the city to life. Afterwards, relax and enjoy a delicious lunch at Gothenburg, the perfect way to round off a colourful and engaging day out. Book at reception to secure your seat!



Bettie Monroe trip - 22nd April

Join us for a stylish evening out at Bettie Monroe Cambridge, featuring light refreshments and an exclusive sneak peek at their Winter 2026 collection. Proudly NZ made, this is fashion with flair. Wednesday 22 April, 5.30–7.30pm. **Please book at Reception by Monday 13 April.** Tracy will drive—10 spaces available.



**Jill Sherburn
W85
New Zealand
Masters
Athletics
Championship
Record Holder:**

Discus	11.92m
Shot put	5.43m
Javelin	11.43m
Pentathlon	2413 points

Jill Sherburn: Proving age is just a number

It's often said that age is just a number—but in the case of Te Awa Lifecare resident Jill Sherburn, it's a number worth celebrating.

Jill, who moved to Te Awa 18 months ago with her husband Ivan from their much-loved lifestyle block, has brought with her a lifetime of energy, commitment, and an unmistakable zest for life. Married with three children—spread across Leamington, Christchurch, and Australia—Jill's family roots are strong, but so too is her drive to keep moving.

With an impressive career as Head of Physical Education at Fraser High and Sacred Heart, followed by her role advising schools across the central North Island on NCEA accreditation, through Waikato University, Jill has long championed active, healthy living. It's a philosophy she continues to embody every day.

Life at Te Awa suits Jill and Ivan perfectly. Between the welcoming community, vibrant lifestyle, and excellent facilities, they've found a place to truly enjoy this chapter of life. For Jill, an "active relaxer" after years of managing a demanding lifestyle block and animals, staying fit is simply part of who she is. She can often be found in the Te Awa gym several times a week, following routines (with a little help from her son-in-law), or enjoying a lively aerobics session—sometimes even via a trusty seated exercise DVD. But it's on the athletics field where Jill truly shines.

A proud member of the Frankton

Athletic & Harrier Club, Jill has been competing in masters athletics for 15–20 years, having wrapped up an impressive netball career at the age of 60. A true all-rounder—equally at home throwing, running, or competing across multiple disciplines—she embraces sport in all its forms.

At the New Zealand Masters Championships in Inglewood earlier this month, Jill delivered an extraordinary performance. Competing in an incredible 11 events over three days, she set four new New Zealand records in the W85 category—discus, shot put, javelin, and the throws pentathlon—an achievement that speaks volumes about her determination and talent.

While the season may have wrapped up, Jill is already looking ahead to the Oceania and New Zealand Championships in Christchurch in 2027, with training set to ramp up again in October.

And despite her many athletic talents, there's one activity she happily avoids—swimming. "Too cold," she says, perhaps a lingering memory of her UK upbringing!

Jill Sherburn is, quite simply, an inspiration—proving that with passion, perseverance, and a positive outlook, there are no limits to what can be achieved at any age.

Celebrating community and creativity

We've thoroughly enjoyed once again supporting the wonderful events at The Woolshed as part of the Cambridge Autumn Festival, along with the vibrant Te Awa Lifecare Main Street Carnival. The calibre of performances was truly exceptional, and the diversity of entertainment ensured there was something for everyone—making for a series of memorable, community-filled occasions.



Manu Mahatahi Choir



Anna Hawkins



Gala Opening



Hamilton Big Brass Band



The Trenwiths



The Trenwiths



Listening, learning, moving forward

Recent staff and village surveys have provided a valuable opportunity to pause, reflect, and listen—something that sits at the heart of the Te Awa community.

Across both surveys, a clear theme shines through: people genuinely enjoy being part of Te Awa. Staff spoke warmly about a supportive environment, strong teamwork, and the sense of purpose that comes from caring for residents and making a difference each day. Residents echoed this positivity, describing Te Awa as a friendly, safe and welcoming place to live, with great people and a strong sense of community.

Just as importantly, the surveys

highlighted opportunities to do even better. Feedback around communication, follow-through, and responsiveness was consistent across both groups - constructive insights that give us clear direction for improvement. There were also practical suggestions, from grounds maintenance and facilities to team support and training, all shared with the common goal of making Te Awa even stronger.

What stands out most is the care behind the comments. Whether

from staff or residents, the feedback reflects pride in Te Awa and a genuine desire to see it thrive.

These surveys are not about numbers—they're about voices. And those voices matter.

As we move forward, our focus remains on building on what we do well, while continuing to listen, respond, and improve. Te Awa has always been about community—and it's through conversations like these that we continue to grow it together.

ANZAC DAY

There will be an Anzac Ceremony in The Woolshed from 10am-11am on Saturday 25th April for residents.

Lest we forget

From our Care Centre



A month full of moments in care

It's been a wonderfully busy and joy-filled month for our care residents here at Te Awa, with a calendar packed full of activities to suit every interest—whether that's getting creative, staying active, or simply sitting back and enjoying the moment.

There's been plenty of fun and friendly competition with our ever-popular "In It to Win It" games, along with table tennis matches that have kept everyone on their toes. For those who enjoy a slower pace, our retro movie afternoons have been a hit—complete with popcorn, of course. Classics like *Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid* and the beautifully restored *Lawrence of Arabia* have transported us back in time, while the men have been thoroughly enjoying the re-running of the iconic series *M*A*S*H*.

Creativity has also been in full bloom. Residents have crafted colourful

butterfly windmills to brighten their spaces, rolled up their sleeves for Easter chocolate making, and created delicious Easter nests—yes, with a sneaky chocolate egg or two involved! Looking ahead, beautiful Anzac Day wreaths have also been thoughtfully prepared.

Of course, no month would be complete without a celebration, and our St Patrick's Day morning tea brought plenty of cheer, green attire, and smiles all around.

One of the standout events was our "Amazing Race" around the village—full of laughter, teamwork and a little healthy competition. Congratulations to our winners: 1st Team Glitz and Glamour, who took out the top spot! Team Hawaii came in second, followed by Team Country.

We also ventured a little further afield in late February with a trip to Waihi.

Despite an overcast sky, it was warm enough to enjoy a scenic walk along the trails, followed by a relaxing lunch by the beach. Of course, we weren't the only ones keen on lunchtime—an eager gathering of seagulls lined up in front of our residents, clearly eyeing up an easy opportunity. Much to their disappointment, our group held their ground, and not a crumb was surrendered!

And that's all alongside the everyday activities that keep life at Te Awa vibrant and engaging.

With April just around the corner, there's no slowing down—starting with an Easter Egg Hunt and a full programme of activities designed for both the creative and those keen to simply relax and enjoy.

Scan the QR code for Care Centre calendar

