Summer has come to an end, unfortunately, and the autumn chills are looming. We’re preparing for the more stormy weather to come by making sure that all our communal garden spaces are neat and tidy, to minimise any debris that wind and rain can cause. Our gardening teams are out and about – trimming, pruning and generally tidying up – and our major tree audit is also nearing completion. Just a reminder, though, that tenants still need to maintain their own gardens, to keep things looking shipshape.

As the weather gets colder, everyone over 65 should think about having the influenza vaccine. This is free for older people and is given annually, because it matches the different strains of flu virus that are around that year. The new vaccine is normally available in March. To protect against the serious complications of influenza, you’re advised to have the vaccine before the winter season, when most people catch the flu.

Finally, you’ll notice smart new village signage going up around the villages over the next few weeks, following the signage audit that took place towards the end of last year. The new signs will reflect our Haumaru Housing branding and will be an attractive addition to our village environments.

Bye for now

Gabby Clezy, Chief Executive Officer

Music Maestro, please

As our Community Managers are discovering, we have many skilled and talented people living in our villages. One such tenant is Patrick O’Dwyer, who lives at Preston Court on the North Shore.

Patrick worked with people with special needs for over 40 years, and uses music as a medium of communication. For the last three years, he has been teaching music on a voluntary basis at Belmont Primary School. Over the course of two days, he works with a total of 55 children in their classes during school hours; this includes playing an instrument and singing.

Patrick plays a number of instruments and is involved with two Ukulele Groups in Devonport. He is also a member of Auckland Mandolin Orchestra. He would like to bring music into the lives of Haumaru residents by creating music hubs in all the villages, and is looking forward to working with Community Manager, Luminita Apostol, and the Haumaru Housing team on how we might take this forward.
New rubbish collection service

Auckland Council continues to roll-out its new flexible rubbish collection service to the North Shore and Papakura, moving away from pre-paid rubbish bags to a ‘pay-as-you-throw’ wheelie bin. Residents purchase pre-paid tags and attach one to their bin on their normal collection day. Moving from bags to bins is the better environmental choice for Auckland and keeps our streets cleaner and safer for everyone, as well as helping to reduce the amount of household waste sent to landfill.

Key dates for North Shore tenants are:

- new tags now on sale, costing from $2.60
- collection of rubbish bins with tags on them starts from 9 April
- orange bag collections stop from 29 June.

There are NO changes to rubbish collection days. Rubbish will still be collected weekly (but tenants should only put their bins out when they’re full). The yellow bag system is not affected by this change.

Papakura will be the first area to get the new three-bin rubbish collection service and the first large-scale area to get a weekly food waste service. The three-bin service includes:

- a 240 litre recycling bin for household plastic containers, paper, cardboard, cans, tins and glass containers, which is already in use around the region
- a new 23 litre food waste bin for all household food scraps, and a 6 litre kitchen caddy to go in your kitchen to collect food scraps
- a new rubbish bin (80, 120 or 240 litres).

The food waste collection service started on 19 March and the tagged rubbish bin service will start in May 2018.

You should now have received information leaflets from the council on what you need to do and seen the various articles in the local newspapers. If you require any further information on the new service, please speak to your Community Manager, phone Auckland Council on 09 301 0101 or have a look at their ‘Make the most of waste’ website: www.makethemostofwaste.co.nz

“Little Remuera” in Manurewa

Mieke Admiraal takes great delight in her home and its peaceful setting at Leabank Court, where she’s lived since 1998.

When she first moved in, Mieke was undergoing some gruelling medical treatment, which depleted her energy and left her feeling exhausted. However, as her unit is positioned away from the hustle and bustle of the large village, the surrounding trees and shrubs gave her a sense of calm, privacy and peace to recharge her batteries. Her good neighbours were very caring and supportive, and this also helped her to remain positive.

Mieke loves her home and appreciates the natural beauty around her. The lemon tree she planted many years ago produces bountiful yields, which she says are there for everyone to enjoy, especially during winter when people can become ill with coughs and colds.

Sitting on one of the communal garden seats outside her unit, you can hear the birds singing and the breeze rustling through the trees. Mieke says the environment and atmosphere inspired her to create her sanctuary slogan “Little Remuera”!

Spotlight on...

Haumaru Housing warmly welcomes Talei Tasi to the Service Desk role.

Talei, known as Lei, will be logging incoming calls on our 0800 number and any queries or maintenance concerns that tenants have. With over 15 years of customer service experience and a bubbly personality, Lei is looking forward to answering your queries.

When not at work, Lei is a mother of three who enjoys family trips throughout the country and is a passionate gardener, which led her to her previous role in the nursery at Bunnings Warehouse. Lei also enjoys cultural events and New Zealand music festivals.

You can contact Lei on 0800 430 101, or email her on Talei.Tasi@haumaruhousing.co.nz.

We always appreciate your feedback. You can talk to your Community Manager, call us on 0800 430 101, email info@haumaruhousing.co.nz or visit www.haumaruhousing.co.nz

The Selwyn Foundation