Haumaru Housing tenants will be the first to experience a fleet of wonderful new minivans, which have been specifically purchased to take older people living in the community to shopping centres and social events and activities. North Shore tenants should look out for forthcoming trips to the Albany mega centre, and those in the West will be able to go on trips to Westgate, whilst tenants in the South will have the option of visiting the Manukau and Sylvia Park shopping centres for just a gold coin donation.

The three new six-seater vehicles are specially fitted for wheelchair access and have been made possible thanks to a generous grant to The Selwyn Foundation from the Stevenson Village Trust, with the aim of helping older people stay connected and maintain social contact within their communities. If you’ve any suggestions on the kind of trips or excursions you’d like to see happen, talk to your Community Manager or let us know on our 0800 number.

In other news, you’ll soon be receiving details of the annual tenant satisfaction survey, asking you what you think about different aspects of life in your village. The survey’s similar to previous years and will be run until 21 May by the same independent research organisation, Gravitas. You can respond either in writing, online or by phone, and your answers will be completely confidential. We do hope you can take part, and all feedback will be very welcome.

Stay warm in these cooler months.

Gabby Clezy, Chief Executive Officer

Alfriston and Gallaher Courts host young visitors

The young and young-at-heart recently came together on a sunny morning at Manurewa's Alfriston Court, to share songs, read stories and have morning tea on the village green. Tenants of adjacent Alfriston and Gallaher Courts hosted children from the nearby Alfriston Road kindergarten, who enjoyed their usual ‘mat time’ activities under the shade of the village’s big old tree.

The brainchild of Community Manager, Faith Hyland, this intergenerational event was enthusiastically supported by tenants, with the children having a great time and tenants now looking forward to the next opportunity to welcome their young visitors.
Anyone for a cuppa?

Great company, good conversation and tasty treats have been the order of the day at a number of village get-togethers recently.

Tenants of Glen Eden’s Harmony Village held a ‘mix and mingle’ afternoon tea on their village lawn just before Easter, to get to know some of their new neighbours and put ‘names to faces’. Taking a trip down memory lane, people chatted about days gone by and reminisced about their old stomping grounds around the city. The Selwyn Foundation’s Mallika Krishnamurthy also took part and spoke about the local Selwyn Centre meetings that are held at St Andrew’s church hall on Wednesday mornings. The event was organised by Community Manager, Margaret Mincham, with lots of help provided on the day by tenants, setting up the gazebo, putting out the tables and chairs, and bringing lots of delicious food.

On the North Shore, tenants at Fraser Court held a lovely morning tea in some glorious sunshine, whilst enjoying some old-time favourite tunes on the guitar. Devonport Community Coordinator, Maria Teape, provided an update on forthcoming events in the area, and everyone enjoyed the excellent entertainment courtesy of guests from Belmont Court, Paul Bennett and Joseph Brown. The morning was part of the ‘What’s new in Devonport’ series of events, organised by Maria and Community Manager, Luminita Apostol, which take place around each of the Haumaru Housing villages on the first Friday of every month. If you live on the North Shore, look out for an event coming to your village soon.

Reaching for the skies

Meet model aircraft enthusiast and boat builder extraordinaire, Mr Gregor Duffus of Manukau’s Inverell Court! Gregor originally hails from Scotland, but lived in Canada for many years before moving to New Zealand. A qualified plumber by trade and with a strong interest in mechanics and engineering, he’s always been passionate about sailing and flying.

Gregor’s fascination with sailing led him to build a 40ft Trimaran, whilst attending evening classes to learn how to navigate. Once the vessel was finished, he, his wife and four children (then aged 16, 13, 6 and 3) sailed the Americas and French Polynesia, stopping off along the way at Tahiti, the Marquesas Islands, Moorea and Rarotonga. In those days, he had to use a stop watch and sextant to navigate the seas – GPS navigation systems hadn’t been invented yet!

When the time came to give up sailing and look for a more sedentary interest to pass the time, Gregor opted for building aircraft models. As you can see, he’s very talented and builds these ambitious models from scratch in his studio unit – which can sometimes ‘look a bit of mess’, he says with a cheeky grin!

Gregor has had amazing experiences and sums things up with: ‘I’ve had a great life and a wonderful mother-in-law!’