Happy New Year, everyone!

I hope you’re having a good summer so far and are getting out and about in the fine weather.

Everyone at Haumaru Housing is looking forward to another year full of exciting initiatives that will help deliver the services and ‘added-value’ programmes that meet our tenants’ needs and enhance people’s wellbeing. To support us in this, we’re continuing our staff training ‘Goldcard’ programme. Each month, every member of staff across the organisation will take part in specialist skills training on the particular health and social issues that can affect people as they age. This will ensure that our wider team is best placed to respond to people’s needs and can support our tenants appropriately.

Our overarching mission, of course, is to address the need for housing in Auckland and no doubt we’ll continue to see changes this year, as the city develops its portfolio of residential properties and intensifies the use of available land. Haumaru will be part of this growth, as we bring new homes on stream to replace those no longer fit-for-purpose, such as our 40-unit village nearing completion in Henderson.

Enjoy the Kiwi summer and here’s to an exciting 2019.

Gabby Clezy, Chief Executive Officer

How does your garden grow?

Mangere’s Topping Court tenants are looking forward to having an abundance of fresh fruit on their doorstep from now on, after their all-day tree-planting ‘bee’ with Haumaru’s gardening guru, Talei Tasi (Lei for short).

In this wonderful community initiative, tenants have planted a lovely array of orange, mandarin, lemon, tamarillo, blueberry and feijoa trees along their driveway garden, together with flowering plants to attract the bees to help with pollinating. On the day of the planting, many tenants ‘pitched in’, helping turn over the soil, putting in edging, doing the actual planting, sweeping the paths and generally tidying up, as well as providing delicious refreshments for all the hard workers to enjoy. Lots of tips and suggestions were offered by passionate gardener, Lei (of Haumaru’s Service Desk team), who’s been available over the last few months to help tenants with their gardening activities (see our article in the October edition).

Lei says: ‘Thank you so much to everyone at Topping Court for all your amazing efforts and everything that you achieved on the day. Despite the hard work, it was a fantastic occasion, and I loved how everyone joined in, sharing lots of laughter, support and encouragement to make something beautiful. I hope your new garden will delight your village community for many years to come.’

Going up…!

Haumaru’s new 40-home development underway in Henderson is rapidly taking shape. Great progress has been made in the last few months, and the project’s on track to be delivered by the end of June 2019. Here’s how it looks so far.
‘Forever Young’ offers tenants improved fitness through fun

Tenants from Bridge Court village in Mangere Bridge have recently completed the latest ‘Forever Young’ programme. Funded by Haumaru Housing and delivered by the Selwyn Community team, the 10-week course is designed to help improve strength, balance and physical agility and so reduce the risk of falls. Participants took part in a fun, structured programme and greatly enjoyed the sessions:

‘Thank you so much for the opportunity. Absolutely enjoyed the exercise, not only was the instructor the best - very enthusiastic and treated us all with respect.’
- Sriyalatha Ratnayalee

‘Really enjoyed the course, fitness has improved a lot and the people were lovely. The tutor was very patient and interested in our wellbeing.’
- Celerina Guzman

The programme was encouraging and we were able to participate at our own level without feeling pressured. Tutor was very good. The course is an asset for our own wellbeing, and we learned methods for preventing falls and improving balance. A life-time skill which we can also practice at home. Very grateful for the opportunity to attend.’
- Atareta and Hauraki Ngawaka

To find out about upcoming ‘Forever Young’ courses and venues, please speak to your Community Manager.

From left: Atareta, Hauraki, Sriyalatha and Celerina at Selwyn Heights retirement village in Hillsborough (the venue for the recent course) with Selwyn physiotherapist and course tutor, Matthew Hodgson.

New tenant engagement strategy underway

We’re currently working on our new Pasifika Engagement Strategy. If you’d like to help us develop this, please contact our Community and Cultural Liaison, Adele Hamilton, on 0800 430 101. Your thoughts and suggestions will be a great help in creating a strategy that reflects everyone’s communication needs and preferences. We look forward to hearing from you.

Spotlight on...

Wendy Dunn, who’s Haumaru’s new Community Manager for the Franklin and Papakura villages.

Wendy’s lived in the Franklin area for over 25 years and, having worked most recently in Auckland city, is now looking forward to working amongst local communities that she knows very well. With a background in town management and also a former small business owner, she has a wealth of customer service experience, event management skills and local knowledge, which she’ll put to good use in her new role. In her spare time, Wendy likes to garden, travel and sing. She’s also competed and gained placings in several country music award competitions.

Wendy will be visiting a village near you soon but, in the meantime, you can contact her on 0800 430 101.

Village Christmas parties

We thought you’d like to see more of the village Christmas parties organised by Community Managers.

Otara Court tenants (left) enjoying good company, with Otara’s Hills Court tenants joined by Community Manager Danielle Tosi.

Howick’s Minerva Court tenants having a chat in the shade (with Haumaru’s Carlyn Doly, pictured front right).

Tenants of Glen Eden’s Westview and Harmony Villages were hosted by staff of independent research organisation, Gravitas Research and Strategy Ltd, in the Westview community hall.

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