The weather has been beautiful lately, but I think our poor gardens have been suffering. We’ve been working closely with our gardening contractors to make sure that all the lawns and communal green spaces are up to the high standard we expect, so they enhance our village grounds and add to the enjoyment of living in a Haumaru community.

The Community Managers have been busy with the annual tenancy checks, making sure that we see to any repair jobs or maintenance projects that might be required. This has resulted in lots of small maintenance jobs, which our Facilities Maintenance team is currently working through.

As we’ve completed these, it’s been great to get all your comments via the Maintenance Feedback Forms which allow us to keep a check on how we’re doing. Thank you for all your positive comments about our staff and contractors – everyone’s working hard to deliver a quality service that meets tenants’ needs. If you’d like us to attend to anything in particular in your unit, do let your Community Manager know or ring us on our 0800 number.

As we go to print, we’re looking forward to a visit to Piringa Court village in Northcote by the National Party’s Social Services Caucus Committee. This group is chaired by local Northcote MP Dan Bidois and is interested in learning more about Haumaru Housing’s work in providing affordable rental housing for older Aucklanders. We’re delighted to have this opportunity to raise awareness with potential policymakers of the need for more affordable rental homes for older people, and to discuss our wider work enhancing tenants’ wellbeing through the added-value services we deliver for tenants. More news on this visit in our next edition.

Until next time.

Gabby Clezy, Chief Executive Officer

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Spotlight on...

Jennifer Galbusera, our Letting Coordinator who started with us recently.

Jennifer’s originally from Italy – from Montagna in Valtellina, a small town in the Alps near Switzerland. Having studied literature and foreign languages, she spent a few years travelling before deciding to settle in New Zealand in 2006, where she’s very much enjoying the ocean and natural world.

Her interest in people and helping to meet their needs saw her working in the Ministry of Social Development’s Centralised Housing Unit for five years, and she’s also been an interpreter with the Magistrates Court and District Court. As Letting Coordinator, she liaises with prospective Haumaru tenants, taking them through the letting process from their initial application until they receive the keys to the door.

When not at Haumaru, Jennifer likes to surround herself with friends – Italian style! – hosting lots of people for dinner and cooking beautiful Italian dishes which remind her of her homeland.

Jennifer and the Letting team can be contacted on 0800 430 101.
Where the brass bands play tiddly-om-pom-pom...

If you’re looking for somewhere to spend a relaxing Sunday afternoon, look no further than Falls Park in Alderman Drive, Henderson, which will be the venue for two Brass Band musical events on 3 and 10 March (2.30pm–4.00pm).

As an added attraction, Haumaru’s Letting Manager, Linda McKenzie, will be performing at the event on 10 March. Linda plays the euphonium in the RNZAF Base Auckland Band which tops the bill at this event every year.

So why not take a picnic, enjoy good company and soak up the atmosphere. If you’d like to go with a group of your neighbours, speak to your Community Manager to arrange transport in our community minivans.

‘Brass at the Falls’ is part of Auckland Council’s free ‘Music in Parks’ series and there are lots of similar events taking place around the city. See more details at www.musicinparks.co.nz/events

Skills and talents put to the greater good

Meet Sharon Walker, one of our newer tenants of Flagstaff Court in Massey. Sharon’s passionate about helping people. She uses her expert quilting skills to help others, by donating the beautiful quilts she stitches either by hand or on her sewing machine to Age Concern and their clientele. She also loves to sing and volunteers her time to entertain at country and western gigs.

With a very busy social schedule, Sharon also enjoys getting out and about, going line dancing or to Kapa haka, and she’ll often join the Waipareira Kaumatua group to participate on trips within the Auckland area and around the country.

Sharon’s pictured here with one of her colourful quilts.

Let it grow

Green-fingered tenants of Pukekohe’s Parkway Village can definitely teach us a thing or two about growing super-sized plants and bountiful veges. Grahame Nicholl is pictured with his giant Christmas lily, which extends a full one meter taller than the average. An avid gardener for over 60 years, Grahame used a different manure this year on the lily tubers, and his flowering garden also has the tallest hollyhock ever seen at Parkway!

Grahame’s neighbour, Mike Currie, is also a master grower, judging by his super cropping tomatoes.