The summer holidays are now a distant memory and everyone at Haumaru Housing is fully back on board and getting on with the business of providing homes and supportive communities for our seniors.

Our minivan trips have been very popular over the summer, providing lots of opportunities for tenants to enjoy the lovely countryside whilst getting to know one another better on their jaunts out and about. Getting to know each other was also the theme of the first morning tea event which we held with our new Wilsheer Village community in Henderson, with tenants greatly enjoying the social occasion and the chance to discover shared interests and develop new friendships.

The villages have all been looking lovely, but we do need a drop more rain to help revitalize the lawns.

Until next time.

Gabby Clezy, Chief Executive Officer

Knitting-aid for Aussie wildlife

Windsor Court tenant Marian Holmes of Mairangi Bay has been doing her bit to help Australian wildlife affected by the bushfires, applying her knitting skills to create survival pouches and bags for kangaroo and wallaby joeys. Marian got involved in the initiative following a volunteering event organised by fabric retailer Spotlight, which was attended by Community Manager Mirela Sandu. With the yarns provided by Spotlight (donated by the public) and the patterns also provided at no cost, Marian has been busily knitting the items which will soon be collected by the Spotlight coordinator. They’ll then be forwarded to animal rescue centres in Australia, to provide care and comfort for the little ones.

Good neighbour Alan is happy to lend a hand

Community-minded Alan Rhind is an ideal neighbour who devotes his time and gardening talents to helping out his fellow villagers at Manurewa’s Leabank Court. Alan loves to assist and support everyone living in the village. He puts all their bins out on rubbish collection day and brings them back in again – and there are 64 units! He’s also a keen gardener and, when not growing lots of fruit and vegetables in his own garden, he’s helping his immediate neighbours with their vege patches. He organises his day so he can tend to everyone’s gardening before it gets too hot. Alan also loves to go fishing when he gets a spare moment, but for now, he’s focussed on helping tenants get all their unwanted goods to put out on the roadside for the upcoming inorganic collection. Thanks for all your help, Alan!
Fond farewell for George

Tenants of Devonport’s Belmont Court held a lovely shared lunch on 20 February to bid farewell to their neighbour, George Lumbard, as he prepares to leave the village after 25 years. George has made many friends in his time at the village, and his neighbours gathered to wish him well as he transfers to his new abode. Community Manager Tracey John presented him with a leaving card signed by everyone and a silver medal to remind him of his friends at the village. George is moving to a rest home not too far away, so he’ll still be able to catch up with his good friends in the Devonport area. He’s pictured second left with all his neighbours (including the Chair of the Haumaru Board Kay Hawk, standing on the right, who was visiting the North Shore villages for the day).

Protecting against Coronavirus

Whilst there are no confirmed cases of Coronavirus in New Zealand to date, we’ve been distributing Ministry of Health leaflets on what support is available if you’re feeling anxious about your friends or family possibly having been exposed to the virus. Contact your family doctor for advice, or call Healthline on 0800 358 5453 (this is a free helpline service which is available 24/7). Take sensible precautions to maintain a high standard of hand hygiene and avoid close contact with those suffering acute respiratory infections or cold or flu-like symptoms.

For further information, visit: www.health.govt.nz/coronavirus

Dedicated volunteers deliver service with a smile

Soni and Winnie Rogan of Topping Court in Mangere East have been volunteering for nearly 15 years, delivering ‘Meals on Wheels’ to communities in Otahuhu and Mt Wellington for New Zealand Red Cross. If ever there’s a shortage of drivers or an extra pair of hands is needed, the dedicated volunteers never say ‘No’. Soni’s often on the road four days a week, delivering up to 13-14 meals on his run.

The good Samaritans enjoy chatting with the people they deliver to and have some good laughs along the way. Volunteers like Soni and Winnie provide an essential service – not only delivering a hot meal to Kiwis every day, but also providing a social connection for many people who might not otherwise see a smiling face that day.

Becoming a volunteer ‘Meals on Wheels’ driver with New Zealand Red Cross is a great way to give back to your community, but there are plenty of other ways to get involved. Visit www.redcross.org.nz/get-involved/

Garden party at Wilsher

Tenants of our new Wilsher Village in Henderson held their first morning tea on 14 February in their village garden, which was a chance to connect with one another and meet some of the Haumaru team. All but one of the forty units have now been let, and everyone has settled comfortably into their new homes, with tenants enjoying getting to know their neighbours and their new surroundings.

Haumaru Letting Manager Linda McKenzie took the opportunity to remind people about the upcoming Brass Band musical events in Henderson’s Falls Park on Sunday afternoons in March. Linda plays the euphonium in the

RNZAF Base Auckland Band and will be performing at the 22 March concert (2.30pm-4.00pm). As it transpires, a number of musicians now live in the new village, so perhaps Wilsher tenants can look forward to hosting outdoor musical events of their own in future!

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