

RANFURLY CARE SOCIETY INC

Newsletter and Christmas Greetings December 2010

Dear friends,

We are well into the spirit of Christmas and are thinking of our friends at this festive time of the year. We wish to thank all our friends and families for their continued support and input which we need in order to keep our uniqueness and the Ranfurly individuality intact in these ever changing times.

This catch up newsletter provides an opportunity to wish you all a very 'Merry Christmas and a Happy Prosperous New Year'. May the miracle of Christmas fill your heart with warmth and love as Christmas is the time of giving and sharing, for loving and forgiving no matter what our culture or heritage. We are all New Zealanders sharing this wonderful country.



Christmas in New Zealand is less about snow and sleigh bells and more about sun, sand and barbecues in the backyard. We can see once again that the beautiful pohutukawa tree, New Zealand's iconic Christmas tree is again this year providing some wonderful displays in full bloom synonymous with the warm early summer and the beach.

Another successful year has passed at Ranfurly Care; many milestones have been achieved in a year marked by the usual varied mix of outings, events and activities which ensure a full and rich life for our residents and the students of the Activity Centre.

Residential: The staffing continues to grow as we strive to achieve excellence in all the services by continually extending the staffing ratios. Ranfurly is very fortunate to have over 40 caring staff who always go the 'extra mile' because of their caring philosophy enhancing the resident's and student's lives. A big thank you to all staff.

Emily Conway the Cornwall Park Coordinator is taking maternity leave next year so we all wish her well in the birth of her first child. We are very sorry that due to work overload Diane Wilcox has resigned her position as the flat coordinator. We will always be grateful and will miss her valuable input over the many years since her involvement in establishing the Living Skills Programme at CPA.

Both residential services are very interactive within the community and excellent records are maintained of all our Weekend and Community Outings. We welcome any one who is interested to come and peruse the pictorial files.

event, Mission Bay, MOTAT Tram Ride and numerous stays at the magical Duncan House at Arkles Bay. AND MANY, MANY, MORE!

Sadly dear Anne Johnson passed away on 27 July 2010; she is sadly missed by us all.

We welcome Rachel Hilton into the Ranfurly house family as a permanent resident. Warren Challinor will be moving into the home as a full time resident in the near future. In the past few months he has been staying 2-3 days a week.

The Ministry of Health audit contracted to the Ministry by EQS was held on 5 August 2010 by Chitra Subrama senior auditor and Anne Bishop family member against the NZS 8134: 2008 Standards. Health and Disability Services, Infection Control Standards and Restraint Minimisation and Safe Practice Standards. During the year we have developed three new policies Staff Professional Boundaries and Conduct, Staff Professional Work Ethics, Open Disclosure. The Risk Management Cell (mobile) Telephones Policy, Challenging Behaviour and Restraint Minimisation policies have been updated and all staff have received training on the new Policies.

Our thanks to Beverly the Duncan House coordinator, for making three scrap booking collages of photos of the Duncan family, they are now hung at Duncan House in order that future members always remember their generous donation. Every week Beverly and Jacquie take four residents/students to stay at Duncan House for a fun relaxing time. These may include, pedicures and spa baths, arts and crafts, outings, home baking, barbecues and beach walks. The residents always come back with a big smile on their face and very eager to go again to be spoilt.

Finally we have completed a new pamphlet which features all of the Ranfurly services. I suggested to the Executive it had a touch of gold but alas their reply was you mean a touch of mustard! Never mind I still think it is old gold! (Our first and only pamphlet was designed in 1996). We had hoped to have the new web page completed before Christmas but too many other matters took preference.

You may recall that for some time we have had plans in place for a building extension at Cornwall Park Avenue. We are told that “Patience is a Virtue” and ours waiting for a permit is finally paying off! The ‘recreation’ building is now well underway and the architect overseeing the progress is very pleased with the standard of the building company ‘Wilkinson’s’. It is very exciting watching the progress take place in the knowledge we will soon have a communal lounge for shared fun.

In regard to the Personal Advocacy Trust visitors - The Auckland East District advisor for the Personal Advocacy Trust - Sarah Lassally has finally got an excellent service underway for the residents who had joined the Personal Advocacy Trust are finally receiving the Trust service that they purchased.

Activity Centre

The Ranfurly Player Film Nights this year were on 30 September & 1 October 2010. The Ranfurly Players had another busy year preparing for the years film nights at Ranfurly ‘mini cinema’. These two evenings were an incredible success to the delight of the director and cast! Brett Ihaka produced five short movies which are on sale at \$5.00 each. The short films are: The Interview, The Bus Stop, The Box, Ranfurly Hospital and Wait for Me, which were shown over two nights in our movie theatre which was set up last year.

The Ranfurly Players are a group of diverse performers with intellectual and physical disabilities. With their passionate energy they create a unique and distinctive visual language for video and theatre. The Art and Drama are both focussed in getting people to be part of the wider community and bring the wider community into Ranfurly and by the integration we are maximising the potential of student's self confidence, etc.

It is lovely to see our friend Christine Fletcher in her role of patron at the Special Olympic prize giving evening in the hall.



In 2010 the International musician 'Moby' created a contest for his single 'Wait for Me'. Filmmakers were invited to submit a video to the website genero.tv/watch-video/2082 . The Ranfurly Players created a wonderful performance in this video competition filmed on the Wild West coast of Aotearoa. Thanks to all of you who voted!

We have recently created our own YOUTUBE page where we have placed quite a variety of drama productions, movie clips and items of interest displaying the students various talents. You can view these at www.youtube.com/ranfurlyplayers where you will find several short videos.

Ranfurly has endeavoured to be creative in many areas, be it from Drama through to Art. This year we had our fourth Art exhibition which was again a tremendous success when friends and families gathered together for an evening of wine and nibbles and a showing of the most creative pieces of art, embroidery, pottery and mosaics that have been created during the year by the Ranfurly Art Students. Most were astounded by the creativity and talent of the students and although the evening was a 'freebe' we welcomed those people that purchased pieces from the students and also those who made donations as this will contribute towards the cost of next year's art expenses.

The Creative Dancers were given their one afternoon to provide entertainment to families and friends alike. They practised throughout the year to accomplish a myriad of complicated moves incorporating their own 'prop's'. They were joined by the Ranfurly singers who performed a melody of popular songs from Elvis to Gospel. Tom Meibusch has produced an excellent music CD recording a selection of ten easy listening songs accompanied by guitar/bass which can be purchased for \$5.00.



(The group at Barry's Court motel after the display)

This year Citizen Advocacy celebrated 20 years of promoting Advocacy and building friendships in the Auckland area. Some of the founding members, who were lecturers in the field of Human Services, at the College of Education in Epsom, attended. Special mention must be made to Ray and Trish O'Brien who were the guest speakers for the conference "make a Difference" held at Barry's Court. The Ranfurly movement group under the guidance and artistic choreography of Glynis had been working on a creative piece which they performed at the conclusion of the concert. This work was an example of the excellence which can be achieved with support motivation.

The weekly Gym Sessions with Patrice our Personal Trainer from 'Gym and Tonic' have been excellent and raised the level of personal fitness for several of the students. Health and Fitness is a big part of the timetable
The creative activities which are met in a variety of ways, include swimming,

line dancing, gardening, dancing, indoor sports, and walking when exploring Auckland, chair aerobics and of course gym work with exercises and time on the treadmill etc. Yoga has continued on a weekly basis which provides excellent stretching and relaxation for the students.

We continue to liaise with and have established good links with the local Te Unga Waka Marae and with wider cultural groups. There is a small group who attend the local Marae on a regular basis for classes in language, kapa haka, history, and cultural awareness of Tikanga Maori. Glynis's 'Visions of Culture' group and the 'Maori' group recently joined forces to visit the Manurewa Marae to increase their awareness of the group's project on the story of the Manurewa Marae and the legends of the two brothers and their kite.



This year's the Activity Centres focus has been on, 'placing' younger school leavers by becoming more involved with the Transition Agencies. We have had four transition students at the centre this year. A big welcome to Nicole Dick, Alex Gamage, Ian Millar and Keisha Marks who will be starting after leaving school in the New Year. We are keen to increase the ratio of the fewer than thirty year olds in our programmes.

On 10 December Surinder Punjya CEO of Nesbitt Centre who are service providers for people with disabilities in Hong Kong and Gary O'Noy, CEO of APET, came to look at the Ranfurly services as Surinder is looking to expand services and was seeking new ideas etc. He presented us with an attractive plaque in appreciation that when translated means friendship – a nice gesture.

A Korean Group that works with the disabled people in their own country visited the Activity Centre 28 May 2010. They have visited here on several occasions in previous years and each time they have given us a small 'souvenir' depicting Korean culture.

We are very pleased that two pupils from Baradene Girls School continue on a weekly basis as volunteers in the Activity Centre. We have also had visitors from Epsom Girls Grammar.



On 17 December the Students were treated to a formal sit down lunch and Santa's visit – courtesy of the staff – this year the staff really 'outdid' themselves. A great time was had by all! By the time you receive this newsletter some of you will have enjoyed (on Monday 20 December) our 'modern' version of the annual Ranfurly Nativity. We hope you enjoyed it as much as the actors enjoyed performing in it! The Student's last day will be on Wednesday 22 December (staff will be here on 23 December to do the final 'clean up' for the year). The New Year starts on Monday 20 January 2011, however students may return on 17 January if it is essential to their families. Limited numbers only can be accepted as there will only be a 'skeleton' staff here. Onwards and upwards then as we strive to provide an excellent service moving forward with new ideas and challenges for 2011.

Our condolences go to many families as sadly we have lost many friends this year. *All those we love remain with us, for love itself lives on, cherished memories never fade because a loved one's gone. Those we love can never be more than a thought apart. For as long as there is a memory they will live on in your heart*

Merry Christmas to you all from Linda and the team



Twenty seven of our staff at the Christmas Luncheon December 2010