



## Owen Streets **Volunteers**

This is an opportunity for me to thank all our volunteers. Thank you for sharing your skills and knowledge; you all add value to Te Hopai and make it the place it is.

The highlights in Owen Street this year have evolved through the compassion and dedication of our volunteers. We have delightfully observed growing friendships and relationships, especially in our 'book clubs' and 'conversations groups'.

This has been a wonderful place to connect, share life stories and reminisce about past days. When wandering around the place, often a volunteer can be found in a quiet sunny nook; immersed in conversation or a boardgame, sitting in the garden, chatting, sipping a cup of tea .... time and kindness can bring so much joy to a resident, it doesn't have to be loud laughter!

Volunteers are advocates and provide residents with a 'voice', or a needed ear to share a concern, this can be so meaningful and lift their spirits. During the year I had to reluctantly dismantle two Art Exhibits, the first was a private Button Collection and recently our residents completed work from our weekly Art Classes. These pieces will be such precious Christmas gifts, I know they will continue to delight and touch hearts.... our volunteers provided the art direction and guidance to allow our residents the opportunity to express themselves through creativity.

I am proud of our residents; they are willing to learn new skills, embark on new projects and continue to look after themselves; our lounge is filled every Friday with residents enthusiastic for their stretch and movement class with our Tai Chi volunteer.

We were blessed with a variety of music during the year; Owen 2 was the place to be on a Friday afternoon, with volunteers co-ordinating well prepared music appreciation sessions, complimented with a selection of drinks from our happy hour trolley. Music really does touch the hearts of so many residents as it triggers memories and continues to connect people. We will certainly welcome any new musicians who come through our doors in the New Year.

I am delighted to have had the opportunity to facilitate Cognitive Stimulation Therapy Sessions with Sara, who volunteered as the support person. We have facilitated structured sessions to improve residents cognition, and look forward to more opportunities to extend our skills in CST in 2020.

It was an honor to be part of the presentation of the Rotary Pride of Workmanship Award which went to a well-deserved Owen Street volunteer this year....You help to make Te Hopai the place it is, a community!

To our volunteers, we thank you for being dedicated; for arriving and leaving some days without receiving recognition, not even a small thank you. More importantly, thank you for seeing the need and responding.

I look forward to working with you all in the New Year, as the days get warm and bright we look forward to more drives and outings, being in the outdoors and enjoying the delights of mother nature.

Thank you to staff and family members who help support each other as we continue to create the 'buzz' around the place.

Wishing you all a safe Christmas.

**Marianne; Diversional Therapist**





## Kowhai

2019 has been a year of change for us all in Kowhai. We said goodbye our much loved managers Julie and Janine in March and have welcomed Vulori as our new manager along with new staff and many new residents. Kowhai is in good heart, music continues to play an important role for residents and staff, we sing most days and enjoy all music offered through the entertainment programme, including the 38 strong Centenary Choir from Fiji, a special thanks to Vulori for organizing for them to visit us here at Te Hopai. We have kept the memory of Kirsty Winter alive in Kowhai by continuing her creative dancing. We filmed her leading the dance group she ran in the hospital before she set off for India in July and we have a combined group with the Hospital to continue her dance sessions. We have enjoyed following her travels and hearing about her adventures and insights into the Indian and Nepalese way of life. We look forward to 2020 and more engagement and connection with residents and their whānau, it is a privilege to work alongside Kowhai residents and create those meaningful social relationships that make people feel useful and retain their independence and purpose.

**Libby; Kowhai Diversional Therapist**



## Merry Christmas and Greetings from HR Admin and Finance team

I thought it might be timely to (re) introduce the team to the families.

Michael has been with us 4 years and sits at Owen St reception when he is not up and about on an errand for staff or residents. He is responsible for covering staff shifts, resident administration, phones and a million other ad hoc requests.

Delanie has been with us a year and is at the Hospital Rd reception. She deals with HR administration, the comfort account, finance administration and also backs up Michael.

Tyler has been with us a year although sadly is about to embark on other adventures and is finishing this Christmas. He has been invaluable in supporting us this year no matter what the task, and has ensured all our records were scanned and bought on line.

Chris started in April. She used to manage Selwyn-Sprott Village, and we have lured her out of retirement to a part time position as HR manager. Tracy has been here 2 years now and is well on track to digitise all the systems. The next project is the roster and timesheets which will start in the New Year.

Together, as a collective team our aim is to support our carers and nurses so they can spend more quality time with our residents.

As always, any of us are happy to help where we can, or point you to the right person if we can't.

We hope you have a lovely festive season and manage to spend some quality time with family.

**Tracy, Chris, Delanie, Michael and Tyler**

