

## TE WIREMU HOUSE CHAPLAINS REPORT 2012

It has been said that the work of old age is to make sense of and make peace with the past. Chaplains are in a good position to support residents in this.

One initiative that has been welcomed by our residents is the installation of a flagpole and plaque. The Rev Wally TeUa led an Anzac service, supported by the Vietnam Veterans Assn., the Malayan Veterans and myself, which has proved to be very healing, especially for our retired armed forces personal. The museum staged an exhibition of photos, at Te Wiremu, of the New Zealand Armed Forces, which along with sharing lunch with the Vets after the service was also helpful in stirring memories, bringing forward stories and old worries. It was also a time of questioning and affirmation.

We continue with our regular pattern of worship celebrating high points of the Anglican church year. We have two Eucharist services a month, the first Wednesday and the third Thursday mornings, with devotions on Wednesday afternoons. These services are important to the residents as they help them to feel part of the church they love, but can no longer attend.

Contributors to the Devotions roster are the Reverends Margaret Bradley, Pat Davidson, Hamish Duncan assisted by Keith Scholes, Roman Catholic sister, Cynthia Kearny, and a team from Mangapapa Union church.

We lost the services this year of Rev Shirley barker-Kirby who has now retired, and Joy Bradley who has moved out of town, but are grateful for the time they spent with us. The Reverends Jack Papuni and Mona Scott from Tekanga Maori often take the Thursday Eucharist. The residents continue to enjoy the variety of devotion styles and also their time with Rev. Pat Davidson from Waikohu Parish who readily fills in for me when I am away.

I work closely with the staff who appreciate the chaplains role taking time for personal chats and make sure I have up to date information regarding the residents.

The Chaplain is expected to attend in house staff training which this year has included Challenging behaviours, manual handling and use of hoists, two fire drills and cultural safety.

I have noticed over the last few years, that fewer of our new residents have been regular church attendees. However, being accepted as they are, given the opportunity to talk, share and explore in their own time and way, and the presence of the Holy Spirit, it is a privilege to walk alongside those who once again connect with their spiritual side.

Rev. Sheryl McGrory  
Chaplain