

TE WIREMU HOUSE CHAPLAINS REPORT 2013

The building of two new Rest home complexes in Gisborne two years ago began to affect our occupancy levels in the past year. However, helped in part by the recent closure of another home, occupancy levels have begun to increase. For me, fewer residents means more time to join with them in various activities, which they seem to enjoy and more time spent with staff.

We continue with our regular pattern of worship of two Eucharist services a month, one usually taken by Rev. Jack Papuni, and weekly devotion services. Contributors to the devotions roster are the Reverends Margaret Bradley, Pat Davidson, Hamish Duncan assisted by Keith Scholes, Roman Catholic sister, Cynthia Kearny, a team from Mangapapa Union church, and the team from St Andrews Presbyterian Church. We look forward to sharing with the newly appointed Presbyterian minister, Rev. Fraser Patterson in the future. The residents enjoy these devotion services and they add richness to the resident's spiritual life.

Other services included the Anzac service led by Rev. Wally TeUa and the Remembrance service when we remembered more than 30 residents who had passed away during the previous year. Time spent with those who are dying and their families is a large part of the work.

As well as the in house training that I am expected to attend, I am also able to take advantage of the staff training offered by the Hospital and many of the Palliative Care lecture series are also appropriate to attend. The 6th World Summit on Mediation with Age related Issues, held in Adelaide in April, was also very interesting.

It is both challenging and rewarding to walk alongside, as residents explore and question the purpose of life and as they face the reality of their own deaths. We are encouraged, as we watch new residents coming to terms with and making the most of limited abilities and as they pick up the opportunity of regular church attendance, many for the first time since they were children.

Rev. Sheryl McGrory
Chaplain