

Hawksbury Community Living Trust

"Your Life, Your Way"
Nōu te Oranga, Māu e Whakarite



Hawksbury Trust News in Brief

June 2011

Sadly I begin with the acknowledgement of three deaths during May; Dave Cale, Jim Mitchell and Darryl Boyd. My thoughts go out to their families, flat mates and the staff who have continued to provide great support.

I wish to extend a welcome to Dairnie Johnston and her family. Dairnie made the move to Dalziel Road from Oamaru in February. Dairnie, and the cat have quickly made themselves at home.

I further acknowledge the recent resignations of Jo McGavin (Administration Manager) and Jenny Bartlett (Team Leader, Avonhead Road). Jo had been with the Trust since 1998 and offered tremendous support to me in my changing roles. Jenny had only recently been employed by Hawksbury and quickly began to realise the position was not what she was looking for. Jo and Jenny will be missed.

The February 22 earthquake in Christchurch was likely for most of you a devastating event which many people are taking a long time to recover from. I must firstly congratulate the people we support for their resilience in not only experiencing this major event but also have to adapt to changes at their homes, some people being relocated to other homes, others having new people coming into their homes and for

some who relocated out of the region temporarily. You all amaze me. I wish to thank those families who were able to offer support with a number of people going home to family. Thankyou also to my executive team for their true commitment throughout this time, and all of our staff for their unwavering support at a time of experiencing their own devastating losses. I also wish to make mention of three other providers who were willing to step up to the mark by offering assistance - The Dawn Trust in Wellington, The Dunedin Community Care Trust, and the Nelson Marlborough DHB Disability Support.

There is obviously still a lot of work to be done to fully recover from this event. The Finance Manager and I are working with EQC, our insurers, and Housing New Zealand Corporation to ensure we receive full cover for our losses. Work will hopefully begin soon on the repair and replacement of damaged property.

I am also completing work at the moment on alternative options for the people we are currently supporting at Waikuku. The home we once had at Snell Place is not an option in the future, due to significant earthquake damage. Housing New Zealand Corporation has been completing work for the Trust on what options they can offer for replacement. I will be working with those of you who

will be directly affected once I have a confirmed plan to proceed with.

The Hawksbury Property Trust has just secured a purchase of two building sites in Centre Street, Mosgiel for a new project to build two new six bedroom homes on the scale of the Gordon Road development. This will continue the Trust's vision to promote good quality housing options for the future and will replace some of the existing rental properties in Dunedin. I am still on the search for another site or home in Dunedin to accommodate a further six people. I intend calling a meeting to discuss all of this with people and their families to ensure I keep you fully informed and involved with this project.

Careerforce is now well and truly underway at Hawksbury Trust. We believe that this will have numerous benefits including increasing the status of our profession. Many of our staff have either begun on the Foundations Certificate or Level Three Certificate in Community Support. It is my intention that all staff will complete this qualification.

At this point I wish to acknowledge one staff member who has completed the Foundations Certificate, congratulations to Janet Chalmers.

Over recent months we have been experiencing significant staff shortages in Christchurch. This situation has now improved somewhat due to a positive round of recruitment. We were also really fortunate to have a flexible permanent relief team staff member who was able to come up to Christchurch from Dunedin and provide additional support. Katrina Ross is the staff member I refer to and I wish to pass on my thanks to Katrina for assisting the Trust.

I wish to also offer my thanks to two Dunedin senior staff who have recently

assisted the Dunedin Team Leaders with on call arrangements. These two staff are Bev Mathieson and Annette Murphy. Thank you both so much for this offer of assistance.

I wish to remind people and their families that we are always open to your feedback. This does not only have to occur once a year when I am completing the review of the Team Leader's performance. If you have any concerns or just wish to acknowledge all of the good that is happening then please do not hesitate in making direct contact with me.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Martin Harris'. The signature is stylized and enclosed within a thin, hand-drawn oval border.

Martin Harris
CEO