

Christmas 2022

I hope this newsletter finds you and your loved ones safe and well. It's been a strange and at times challenging year and seems to have sped by.

It's been a busy few months since the last newsletter and we're all looking forward to an exciting and fulfilling year ahead when we can hopefully be more about making and implementing plans rather than being in reaction mode.

Our Day to Day

We continue to have periodic Covid infections in both the staff team and people we support. The team are now experts in a quick response and keeping the transmission of the virus to an absolute minimum. I'm sure you can imagine full PPE in this muggy weather is no fun for the team – thank goodness all bar 1 of our houses now have decent air con systems in place. Thankfully none of the people supported have been hit too hard with symptoms but some of the team have been really knocked around.

We have worked hard to maintain regular routines and trying out new activities and paid employment as restrictions allow. Your loved ones are to be admired for their ability to roll with the punches and deal with disruptions and quick changes to their days.

We have introduced some new software this year around a decent rostering system and an excellent medication administration system. The staff have picked up this new technology well and it has translated to more accurate and less time-consuming administration and more safety nets around medication.



Our finances are in good shape and our annual return has been lodged with the Charities

Service which you are able to access here: [TFT Annual Return](#)

As we are all too aware, the cost of living is impacting us all, but we are managing to deliver a modest surplus each month.

Trust Wide Audit

As many of you will be aware, Kingseat is on a regular audit schedule (a full audit every 4 years and a mid-point audit at the end of year 2). Whaikaha required the audit team to review Kingseat along with 4 people across Station Rd, Waterview Rd and people living in the community – so basically Trust wide. We got an excellent result. No corrective actions, just a couple of suggestions around areas that we are currently reviewing. I am just so jolly proud of the team and your loved ones; they were welcoming and open and honest about life with the Trust. Many thanks to those whanau members who also took part in the audit.

This is the first audit where we have been measured against the Enabling Good Lives (EGL) principles so it's great to know we are naturally aligned with these important principles in our day to day. I would strongly encourage you to access the resources available around EGL and what this change in ethos means for your loved ones: <https://www.enablinggoodlives.co.nz/>



Team Totara

While we had a very stable team in the first two years of Covid we have had rather high staff turnover in the past 6-8 months. Some staff are studying nursing qualifications who remain on the payroll as casual or part time, some have moved closer to whanau, and some are pursuing other lines of work. While we are always sad to farewell team members, it's been an awesome experience welcoming in a new cohort of staff. Their fresh ideas, and legs!!, are so welcome and



Innovative

Auaha



Responsive

Whakarongo kia whakaute



Empowering

Whakamana



Respectful

Kia whakaute

their presence has been a real shot in the arm for the Trust.

We now have a full team of House Leaders who were all appointed from within the current team. Welcome Lia, Pam, Niki and Fiona into your roles. Your efforts make a real difference.

Christmas and Summer Holidays

We had a fantastic friends and whanau Christmas celebration a couple of weeks ago. The country and western theme was a hit and the line dancing and the hokie tokie were heaps of fun. It was great to get a chance to catch up with a lot of you and I know the people we support had a whale of a time.

We have had to reschedule the people supported and staff party 3 times but we're hoping we can all come together for some Christmas fare, an exchange of gifts and just generally hanging out together on Wednesday 21st December. Fingers crossed.

Several of your loved ones are having a mini or extended break with friends and whanau over Christmas. For those staying at home we have good plans in place to have a great Christmas day with the teams on site. Watch out on Facebook for the evidence.

We are looking to start booking summer holidays for those who are keen, and we will update or liaise with you personally as these plans develop.



2022 Highlights

Despite all the interruptions and disrupted plans we've still had plenty of highlights throughout the year. Those of you following our Facebook page will be aware of the volume and variety of



Innovative

Auaha



Responsive

Whakarongo kia whakaute



Empowering

Whakamana



Respectful

Kia whakaute

activities, sports, community engagement, concerts.....the list goes on. I won't list all the highlights, but a small sample includes the Topp Twins tribute concert, Six60 concert, final of the Women's Rugby World Cup, country and western events, new paid employment opportunities, new volunteering opportunities, gold and silver swimming medals at the Special Olympics (well done Greg) the list goes on and on and on

Next Year and Beyond

The Board and I and the Leadership Team are very keen to make progress around our strategic plan and cast our gaze beyond the immediate and short term. Once we have some form to this, we will update you and we're always keen for your ideas, thoughts, and feedback.

There's no doubt the disability sector is heading for a period of change which is long overdue. At this stage it's hard to pin down any detail but we remain connected to the right people in relevant agencies and I will keep you informed as changes are flagged.

The changes ahead, whatever they may be, will have some level of impact on the Trust and consequently your loved ones. Your voice is incredibly important, and I would strongly encourage you to contact Whaikaha directly with any feedback or ideas you may have.

contact@whaikaha.govt.nz

Finally, I would like to wish you and yours a safe and restful festive season. As we all know we just don't know what might be around the corner so I would suggest making the absolute best of any whanau time and enjoying our beautiful country.



Nga manaakitanga ki a koe me o koutou whanau

Bernadette and The Leadership Team