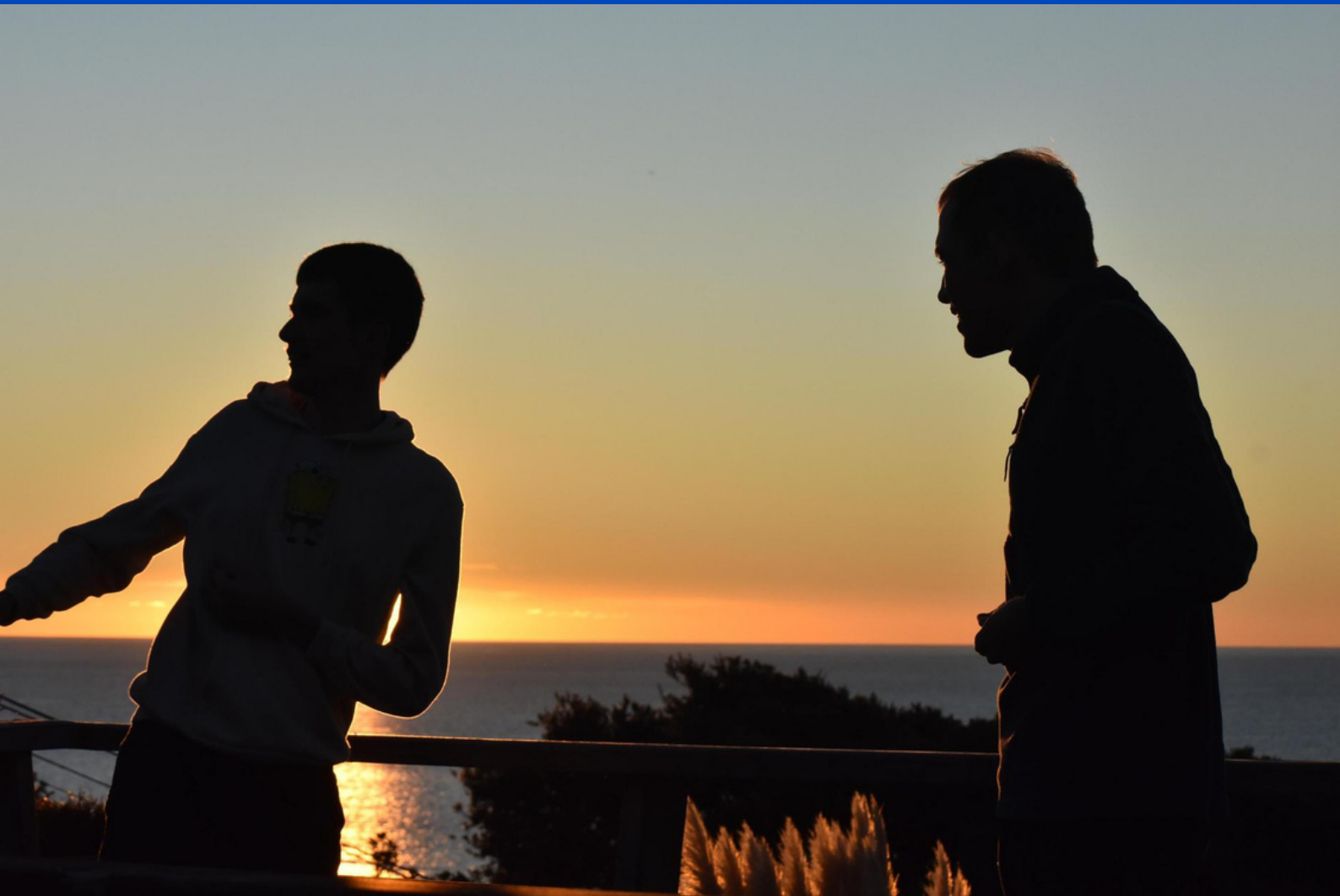


HŌHEPA HAPPENINGS
HŌHEPA WELLINGTON
JUNE 2026



Hōhepa

every life fully lived

CAPTURING AUTUMN'S MAGIC

To celebrate the stunning autumn sunsets and encourage people to connect with the beauty of the world around them, we launched an **Autumn Sunset Photo Challenge**. As always, the entries were fantastic, and choosing a winner was no easy task. Enjoy a selection of the photos on this page and on the cover of this newsletter. After a close voting process, the stunning shot of Georgia **watching the sun go down behind Kāpiti Island took out the top spot** - congratulations, we hope you're enjoying your prizes! Well done to everyone who took part — for getting out and about in those gorgeous, crisp evenings and for embracing the challenge.



FROM OUR GENERAL MANAGER

Linda Windley



Kia ora koutou,

One of our key priorities this year is delivering our work plan in response to the valuable feedback received through the recent safety review. This includes a strong focus on building positive team dynamics so staff feel supported, connected, and confident in their roles. We know that strong teams create better outcomes for everyone, and we are committed to fostering an environment where people feel valued, heard, and empowered to do their best work.

Supporting people to make decisions about their own lives to the fullest extent possible remains a cornerstone of our philosophy and practice. To strengthen our shared understanding of what this means in practice at Hōhepa Wellington, we discussed this with our Family and Friends Association and are planning 'Supported Decision Making' learning opportunities for both staff and families.

There is a great sense of excitement as we prepare for the long-awaited roading, parking, and landscaping upgrades at our Ōtaihangā site. As work is about to begin, we are looking forward to seeing improvements that will enhance accessibility, safety, and the overall environment. These developments represent another step towards creating an environment that is future focused and reflects our anthroposophical roots.

Thank you all for your ongoing interest and support.

I look forward to sharing more updates as these initiatives progress

Ngā mihi nui,
- **Linda**

FROM GOOD TO GREAT

Supporting our staff to be their best

Our staff are our biggest asset, and their commitment to walking alongside the people we support to live full and meaningful lives is truly inspiring.

To help our staff to continue delivering great support - and to grow in their own career journey - we provide a range of ongoing training. This includes First Aid, Abuse Prevention, Active Support, Autism Awareness, Te Tiriti o Waitangi, Safety Intervention and more



All support workers are enabled to complete their New Zealand Certificate in Health and Wellbeing (Level 2), with additional opportunities for those who want to continue progressing into further study and career development.

We also have a strong and supportive orientation programme for new support workers, ensuring their first three months at Hōhepa Wellington are focused on health, safety, and wellbeing - building the foundations needed to grow into confident and capable team members.

We are committed to ensuring our support workers feel valued, encouraged, and inspired to be their best.

WHAT'S HAPPENING ONSITE?

As always, there's plenty happening to care for Hōhepa Wellington's whenua, deepen our connection with nature, and enhance our amenities.

👤 In June we bid a very fond **farewell to Ina**, our Garden and Nursery Lead. Over the past six years, Ina's care and commitment to the land and the people we support has been exceptional, and we wish her all the very best for her next adventures. To continue growing and enhancing our gardens and nurseries we have recruited individuals into two new positions: **Horticulture Coordinator** - leads the expansion and development of the nursery and garden spaces, ensuring a consistent supply of produce to the homes and opportunities for meaningful engagement. **Gardening Lead** - creates and facilitates meaningful engagement in the garden for the people we support. We look forward to welcoming these new community members very soon!



👤 There was plenty of excitement onsite one gloomy day in May when **Kowhai House was carefully loaded onto a truck and relocated** across the site to join the other homes in the Dorothy Spotswood Village area! This move marked the beginning of long-planned upgrades to our Hōhepa community. Next up are significant improvements to roading, parking, and landscaping.

👤 The time came to undertake significant tree removal along the boundary of our 39 Otaihanga Road site. **With the large trees now gone, we have created valuable space to expand and enhance our garden areas. Plans include:**

- the addition of new greenhouses
- improved composting facilities, and
- more in-ground planting spaces to support increased engagement opportunities.



👤 **Sneak peek at the Sensory Pod!** Good things really do come in small packages, and this little beauty is shaping up to be a fantastic addition to Hōhepa Wellington. While this "pod" is still being fitted out with its final touches, we couldn't resist giving you a glimpse. We'll share more once it's officially launched.

HARVEST FESTIVAL

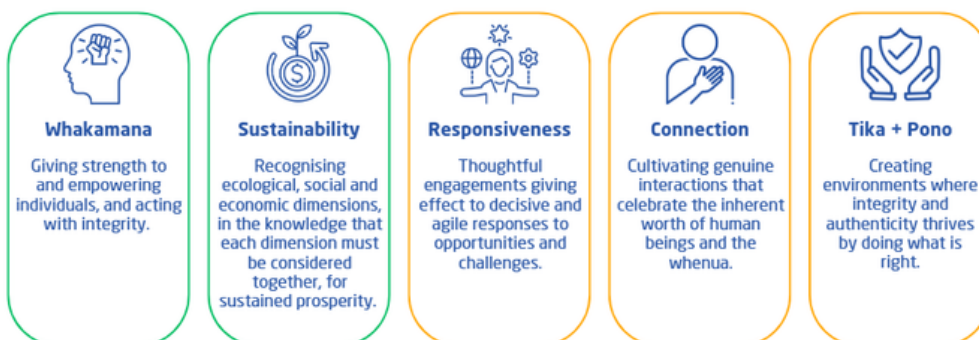
Our Harvest Festival was a joyful celebration of community, connection, and abundance. Under bright autumn skies, **we gathered to give thanks for the land, the people who care for it, and all it provides.** From stirring biodynamic preparations — bringing warmth and intention to the elements — to harvesting from our gardens, the day was full of simple moments that nourished both body and spirit.

Inspired by a rhythm that connects earth, people, and the wider living world, the festival reminds us of our role as caretakers of the whenua — tending not just what we harvest today, but what will grow in seasons to come. A **big thank you to everyone who helped bring the day to life**, and to all who came along and made it so special.



LIVING OUR VALUES

We're shining a light on some of the individuals and teams who are **quietly, boldly, and beautifully living our values**. This is just a small peek at some of the amazing happenings across Hōhepa - where our values are woven into everyday life.



In the spirit of staying **responsive** to what's happening around us, we've caught football fever - just like much of the world! Each house drew a country out of a hat to support, bringing plenty of fun and friendly competition. To add to the excitement, some of our football-loving support workers have started a Sunday Football session, sharing their passion for the beautiful game and creating opportunities for **connection**, teamwork and shared experiences.



LIVING OUR VALUES

Something delicious has been happening! We're excited to add a brand-new weekly highlight to the engagement schedule — a **baking class with Michelle**, one of our incredible support workers.

The Studio is buzzing, with some of the people we support diving straight into group activities with ease, while others are gently building their confidence and engagement over time — and every step forward is worth celebrating!

These sessions are for everyone. It's all about **whakamana** — supporting each person to grow, participate, and shine in their own way, at their own pace.



Creativity continuing to flourish! With support from our friends at The Shed Project, Michael, Tessa, and Harry from Hōhepa Wellington are all proudly exhibiting artwork in this year's **IHC Art Awards**. Running from 24 July to 6 August, the exhibition celebrates the talent, imagination, and unique perspectives of artists from across Aotearoa. We encourage you to head along and explore the inspiring collection on display — and who knows, you might even find a favourite piece to take home with you!

Art is one of those beautiful things that builds **connection** - between people, and the artwork itself. We're wishing all of the artists the very best of luck for their 2026 pieces!

HELPING HANDS



In June, we celebrated one year of incredible **volunteer mahi from Caroline**. The flowers and sweet treats were just a small token of appreciation for the many hours, energy, and care you've so generously shared. Thank you for everything you do - it truly makes a difference!

Are you interested in volunteering with us?

There are plenty of ways you can volunteer or support what we do. Please reach out to Shelley Elliott on 0272515422 or Shelley.Elliott@hohepawellington.com

A WORD FROM THE BOARD

Andrew Brown, Chair



Kia ora koutou,

It is a pleasure to share this update with our wider Hōhepa Wellington community.

As a Board, we remain focused on ensuring that everything we do is grounded in our core purpose — supporting people to live fulfilling lives within a strong, values-led community. This commitment continues to guide our decisions, from day-to-day oversight through to longer-term strategic planning.

Over recent months, we have seen steady progress across a number of key areas. Development work continues to shape the future of our Ōtaihangā campus, with Kōwhai House now relocated to its new position and preparatory work for Phase 1 civil works largely complete. Careful financial stewardship has also positioned us well for sustainable growth as a standalone region over the past three years.

These are important foundations as we look ahead and consider how best to meet the needs of the people we support, both now and into the future.

Alongside this, we are continuing to strengthen our relationships — with whānau, neighbours, funders, and the wider community. Open communication and thoughtful engagement remain essential to ensuring that Hōhepa Wellington is both responsive and well-connected, and that our story reflects who we are as a trusted provider to government.

I would like to acknowledge the dedication and care shown every day by our staff, volunteers, and leadership team. Their work is at the heart of Hōhepa Wellington, and it is through their commitment that our community thrives. The Regional Board continues to provide strong and professional governance, and as Chair, I am deeply grateful for the team we have built.

Finally, my thanks to everyone who supports Hōhepa Wellington — whether through time, expertise, or advocacy. Your contribution makes a real and lasting difference.

Ngā mihi nui

- **Andrew Brown**

WELCOMES AND FAREWELLS



We said a very special farewell to Rene, one of our House Managers. Rene was a valued member of the Hōhepa Wellington team for almost 8 years, and we are grateful for her dedication, contribution, and the positive impact she made during her time with us. We also extend our best wishes to two Support Workers as they move on from Hōhepa Wellington.

Since our last newsletter update we have welcomed one new permanent Support Worker, Simon, along with four new casual team members: Sonat, Donald, May Ann and Simeon. Additionally, one casual Support Worker transitioned to a permanent role.

Also, big congratulations to **Amrith**, who has been with us for 3 years, and managing a home for the past 8 months. He has recently **accepted a role as House Manager!** We love seeing people grow and progress within Hōhepa Wellington, and we're excited to see him thrive in this next chapter.

We will soon have **full time, part time, and casual Support Worker roles available** so if you, or someone you know, is interested the advertisements can be found on Seek.



Hōhepa

every life fully lived

We're working hard to raise Hōhepa Wellington's profile and share all the incredible things the people we support, and our staff, do every day.

Please follow us on [Facebook](#) and [LinkedIn](#). The more you like, share, and comment the better!

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