

HŌHEPA HAPPENINGS
HŌHEPA WELLINGTON
SEPTEMBER 2025



Hōhepa

every life fully lived

FROM GOLF SLICE TO PIZZA SLICE

After the wonderful success of our Golf Day fundraiser held in May, we are delighted to share that the funds raised will be used to create a **communal outdoor gathering space** - a place to connect, celebrate, and unwind together all-year round.

This gathering space will be created outside the current Studio - expanding and enhancing the spaces we use to come together as a community.

The planned enhancement will be more than just a physical upgrade - it's a reflection of our vision of every life fully lived.

Here's what's coming to life thanks to the generosity shown at the event:

- 🔥 An open outdoor fire to create a warm and soothing environment
 - 🍕 A pizza oven to bring people together over shared kai
 - 🪑 New tables and seating for comfort and conversation
 - 🛋️ Bean bags for relaxed, playful lounging
 - 🌿 A layer of durable surface - useable rain or shine.
- A concept image of the proposed space is shared here. Our goal is to have this new area finished in time for Christmas - we'll keep you updated!



UP AND GROWING!



In our last newsletter, we shared the exciting news that the Kāpiti Coast District Council had generously supported our vision for raised gardens through their Community Grant. Thanks to this funding, **four beautiful raised gardens have now taken root onsite!**

Assembled by our [The Shed Project Kāpiti](#) friends, filled with nutrient-dense soil by our dedicated volunteers (under Georgia's thoughtful guidance), and planted with care by Michael. What a powerhouse of people - ngā mihi nui to everyone involved!

These raised gardens offer more than just greenery. They create accessible, hands-on opportunities for people of all abilities to connect with nature.



FROM OUR GENERAL MANAGER

Linda Windley



As spring settles in I, for one, am glad to welcome the longer days, warmer weather, and sense of new beginnings. It feels like a great time to reset, refocus, and keep moving forward together.

This past quarter has brought meaningful wins - and its share of challenges. Our connection with the wider community has been tested. However, through it all, we remain committed to being a good neighbour, acting in good faith, remaining steadfast to the meaningful work we do, and continuing to ensure the people we support enjoy all the benefits of community life.

In July we were thrilled to secure new funding from the Ministry of

Social Development to expand and enrich the range of activities and opportunities we offer. This support will enable us to deepen the experiences we offer, create stronger community connections, and explore inclusive pathways for new experiences. A new Engagement Facilitator is starting in early October to lead this work - designing opportunities that uplift, connect, and grow. This is a great time to get aspirational, think outside the box and get excited about new possibilities.

Thank you for your continued support - there's much to look forward to.

Linda

FROM GOOD TO GREAT



Over a beautiful, sunny weekend in August we hosted the annual **Hōhepa National Hui**, bringing together Board Members and General Managers from each Hōhepa regional branch, alongside the Hōhepa Homes Trust Board. The hui was anchored in the themes of connection, unity, and collaboration - and it sure delivered!

While each Hōhepa branch carries its own unique history and personality, the hui reminded us of the **richness that emerges when we share insights, celebrate differences, and learn from one another.**

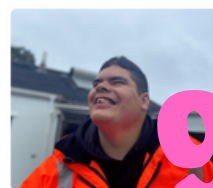
The safety and wellbeing of the people we support is at the heart of everything we do. As part of our ongoing commitment to strengthening workforce capability, we recently held **Abuse Prevention training workshops** for all staff.

We're proud to share that **94% of our staff completed the training** - a powerful reflection of their dedication to continuous learning and the shared responsibility we hold in creating safe environments.

The key elements of the training included:

- the importance of an open and transparent workplace
- recognising the signs and symptoms of abuse
- understanding the power and responsibility of our roles
- knowing how and when to report abuse

Objectives of this training



After this training, you will be able to:

- Describe what **abuse is**
- Know the signs, symptoms, causes and effects of abuse
- Understand how **power and control** impact your role and the safety of PWS
- **Recognise and report** abuse
- Describe the **process** that should take place **after reporting** abuse

94%

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.



A **new pathway between the village and number 39** has been constructed, making it easier and safer for everyone to walk to the gardens and nursery.



Planting has taken place along the boundary of our shared driveway to number 39, as well as thoughtful planting additions between homes in our village to bring privacy, shade, and biodiversity.



A new **battery-powered line trimmer and lawn mower** have been purchased and are being put to excellent use by people we support and our wonderful volunteers. The mower is self-propelled, and much quieter.



MEET THE LOCALS with Elle

Elle posed some hard-hitting questions to our **two new volunteers from Germany, Sara and Lynn**, who joined us earlier this month.

Where did you grow up?

Lynn: Wiesbaden, Germany

Sara: Hanover, Germany

What is your favourite food?

Lynn: I really like pizza and Japanese food.

Sara: Sushi and pizza for me.

What TV & movies do you like?

Lynn: Yes, my favourite is Avatar.

Sara: I like Gossip Girl and Disney movies.

Do you have any pets?

Lynn: No, but I like cats.

Sara: No

Do you have a middle name?

Lynn: I have 3! Astrid Waltraud Karin.



What's something you're really good at?

Lynn: Being positive, and seeing things in a unique way.

Sara: Painting my nails. And Lynne says I'm good at making banana bread.

Can you play any instruments?

Lynn: No I don't.

Sara: I don't either.

Do you snore?

Lynn: I don't think so, but my parents say I do!

A WORD FROM THE BOARD

Amanda Hill



Kia ora! I was privileged to join the Board when Hōhepa Wellington became a separate entity. As a lawyer, I've worked with hundreds of people seeking accountability and redress for abuse in State and faith-based care. I wanted to be part of a different approach - one that uplifts people with intellectual disabilities.

Hōhepa offers an extraordinary opportunity to build a community in harmony with the whenua, enhancing the mana, wairua and tinana of those we support. That vision takes money.

Alongside the legal and governance roles the Board brings, I'm especially passionate about fundraising. Thanks to the incredible work of Shelley, Linda and the team, we've already met this year's (conservative) fundraising goal - but there's much more to do. We're working to make it easier for people to donate through gifts, bequests and regular giving. Government funding keeps our wheels turning, but additional fundraising enables more capital improvements, more activities and opportunities to provide a premium service for the people we support.

HELPING HANDS



Since joining the Hōhepa Wellington whānau in June our fantastic volunteers, Caroline and Jack, have made a truly meaningful impact. Their support in the gardens each week has been a huge help to Ina, our Nursery and Garden Lead - bringing not only extra hands but uplifting energy to the mahi.

Ina says "The volunteers are truly invaluable to me.

Their dedication and support make a real difference and go far beyond simply helping with the work. Even in such a short time, we have become a wonderful team and connect very well. We share meaningful conversations, and the people we support look forward to their visits. Their presence brings energy, positivity, and a sense of community that is deeply appreciated".

We're continuing to partner with Volunteer Kāpiti to connect with their vibrant network of volunteers.

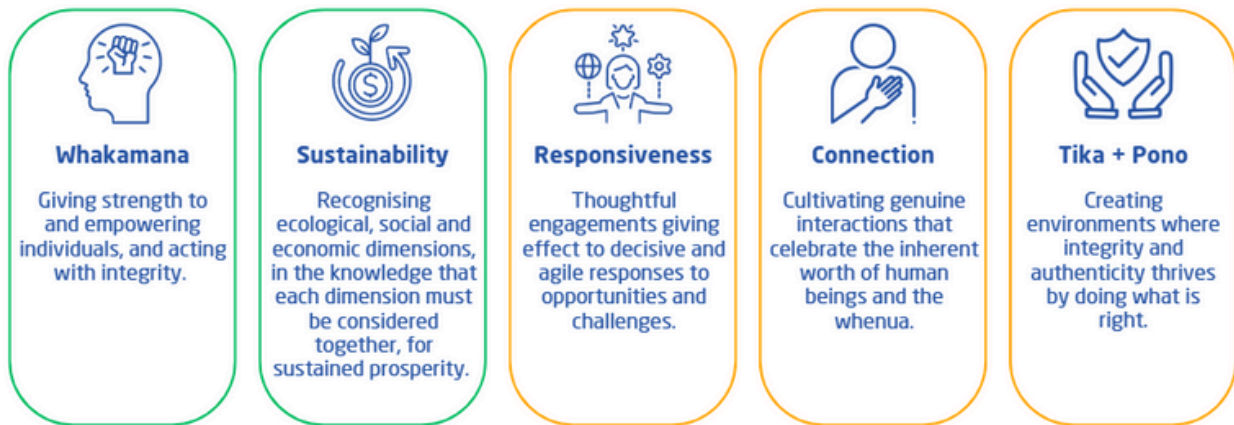
If you're drawn to share your time - whether through gardening, creativity, music, movement - you can also reach out to us directly.

Please reach out to Shelley Elliott on 0272515422 or Shelley.Elliott@hohepawellington.com



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.



CRUSHING GOALS!

Georgia has been setting herself some powerful health and wellness goals lately, and her progress has been inspirational. Starting with simple daily walks, Georgia recently achieved a personal best of walking 6.5kms in just 1hr 15mins!

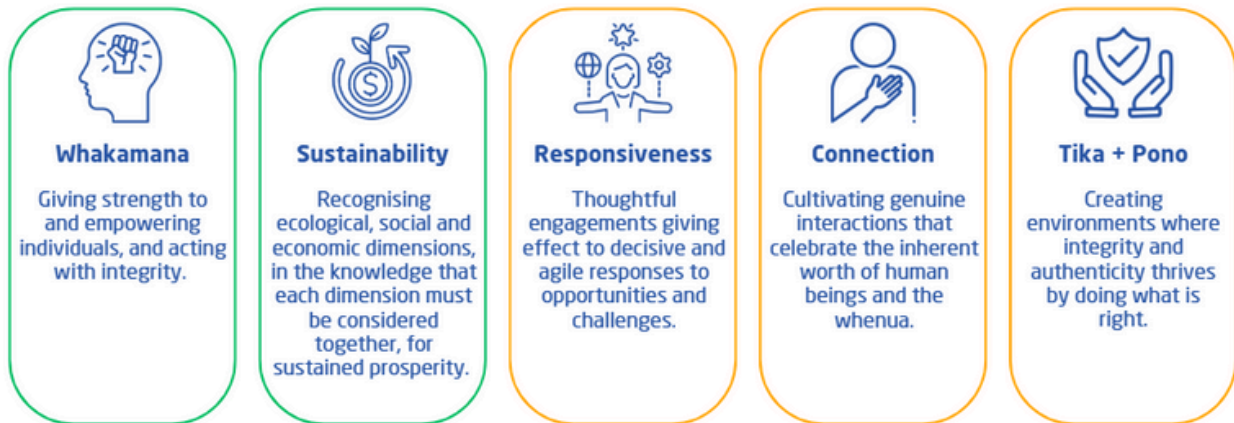
Throw in a little yoga and some meditation - what can't this young woman do?!

Georgia's journey reminds us that consistency beats quick fixes. Her support team couldn't be prouder - and this milestone is just the beginning.

Whakamana: empowering others by nurturing their skills and confidence.



LIVING OUR VALUES



TOGETHER IS A GREAT PLACE TO BE

What began as a farewell gathering for a support worker moving to a new role within Hōhepa, grew into something much more. The people we support, their parents and support team found real joy in simply being together - sharing food, stories, and laughter.

It reminded this team how powerful these moments are. And the feedback was unanimous: more of this, please!

This home is excited to plan more events with whānau to connect, participate, and celebrate alongside their loved ones.

Connection: creating spaces where people and place are valued, and relationships can grow.



BUILDING BELONGING IN THE STUDIO

Having been a little hesitant in the past to join Studio sessions, Sarah has been making fantastic strides. This exciting shift is huge!

Thanks to the gentle encouragement and consistent support from her support team, Sarah is now showing genuine enthusiasm for art, cooking and music therapy sessions. Her growing confidence and curiosity are a joy to witness.

Responsiveness: tuning in and offering gentle pathways for all to engage - honouring each person's rhythm, interest, and spirit.



MUSIC THERAPY FOR A FULL YEAR

In our last newsletter we shared the news that, thanks to a grant from **MusicHelps**, we had funding for 12 weeks of group music therapy sessions. And now, with very generous support from **Pub Charity Limited**, these weekly group sessions can continue for a full year! These sessions are being led by Carlos Riegelhaupt Landreani, a registered music therapist, who brings experience with music therapy here at Hōhepa Wellington.

Group music therapy is a vibrant, mana-enhancing experience that nurtures connection, communication, and confidence for people - through the **shared joy of making music together**.



WELCOMES AND FAREWELLS

Since our last newsletter we have welcomed three new permanent Support Workers Rajashekar, Javiera, and Kishore to Hōhepa Wellington, along with Arjun, who is a new casual.

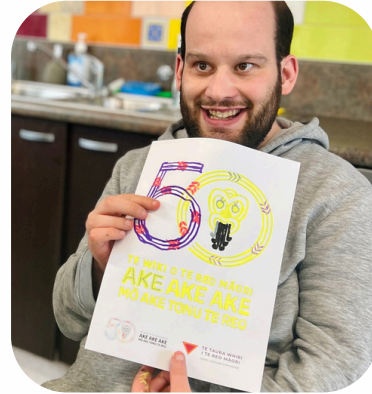
We're delighted to have them join our Hōhepa whānau.

One of our Support Workers transitioned from permanent to casual to best accommodate their work-life balance, and we bid farewell to one Support Worker - wishing them all the best. We also said goodbye to Jason Grundy, one of our Service Managers. Jason contributed so much to the development of Hōhepa Wellington over his 18 months here and we're sure our paths will continue to cross in the future.



TE WIKI O TE REO MĀORI

We marked 50 years of Te Wiki o Te Reo Māori | Māori Language Week at Hōhepa Wellington with waiata, korero, and mahi toi - celebrating through song, conversation, and art. Learning new skills and embracing challenges is part of the journey for both staff and the people we support. Check out the beautiful weaving and vibrant Te Wiki o Te Reo poster colouring from the week's art class!



♥ **September is Wills Month in NZ**, take a moment to plan for those you love – and those you uplift. A **gift to Hōhepa Wellington in your will** can help create a future filled with opportunity, creativity, and joy.

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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