HŌHEPA HAPPENINGS

HŌHEPA WELLINGTON

SEPTEMBER 2026



Hōhepa

every life fully lived

CELEBRATING NATURE'S RHYTHMS TOGETHER



In July, we came together to celebrate **Matariki**, a special time to reflect on the year that has been, give thanks for what we have shared, and look ahead with hope to the opportunities of the year to come. There was plenty of delicious kai, meaningful time spent together, and, for the brave, some enthusiastic karaoke!

More recently, our **Spring Festival** brought another joyful opportunity to gather as a community and celebrate the arrival of te kōanga (spring). With colourful bunting fluttering across the site, hands busy with spring-themed activities, and the stirring of our biodynamic preparation, there was a wonderful sense of renewal, growth, and fresh energy in the air.

Spring reminds us that even the smallest seeds, given care and patience, can grow into something wonderful.

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who helped bring these celebrations to life and make them such special occasions!









NEW FACES, NEW SPACES

We are delighted to have welcomed Elise and Cat to Hōhepa Wellington in two complementary roles that support our connection with the land.



As **Horticulture Coordinator, Elise** is leading the expansion and development of our garden spaces. With our new greenhouse now in place and plans underway to expand both the in-ground and raised garden areas, there is plenty to plan for and be excited about. Elise is also nurturing our existing vegetable garden, helping it thrive and produce fresh, seasonal food to be shared with our houses and neighbours.

Cat's Gardening Lead role is all about creating opportunities for engagement in garden-based activities for the people we support. Alongside leading our herb workshops and handwork sessions, Cat is passionate about growing, harvesting, and sharing food from our site. She is helping bring the concept of 'seed to plate' to life, creating hands-on experiences that connect people with the food they grow and enjoy.



Our outdoor fireplace area is fast becoming a favourite gathering place, made even better by the addition of a new pizza oven. With pizzas ready in just 90 seconds, there's always plenty to share, bringing people together over good food and conversation.
Thanks to the generosity of the Hōhepa Wellington Family and Friends Association, the space has also been enhanced with a collection of colourful new beanbags. Roll on summer afternoons spent relaxing, connecting, and enjoying the outdoors together!





HELPING HANDS



Not only did these incredibly kind folk gift Hōhepa their family piano, but they also rallied friends and neighbours to help move it in. Thanks to their generosity and community spirit, the piano is now in place and ready to be enjoyed by many.

We have some really fun plans to create colourful signs for our gardens - **if you have any water resistant, bright coloured paint you'd like to donate** please let Shelley know: Shelley.Elliott@hohepawellington.com

And if you're interested in volunteering your time with us, we would love to hear from you!

FROM OUR GENERAL MANAGER
Linda Windley



Kia ora koutou,
One of the things I value most at Hōhepa Wellington is seeing people find joy through meaningful work, relationships, and community life. Whether connecting with our beautiful whenua, taking part in community gatherings, or sharing their skills and gifts, these experiences help create a strong sense of belonging and purpose.

As we develop the site, there has always been a strong focus on sharing what we have, connecting, and giving back to our community in a meaningful way; this spirit of connection is reflected in our growing relationship with the local Ōtaihanga Made Greener (OMG) community group. We are excited to be exploring the sharing of a portion of land for community gardening, creating opportunities for people to come together, build relationships, and contribute to benefitting others.

Alongside our growing community connections, we're also seeing increasing interest from people looking to make Hōhepa their home. Over recent weeks, work has started to renovate our 'house on the hill', thoughtfully refreshing this much-loved home to once again provide a warm, welcoming, and spacious place to live.

These projects may look quite different on the surface, but both reflect the same commitment: making the most of what we have, strengthening connections, and creating environments where people can flourish.

Thank you all for your ongoing interest and support.

Ngā mihi nui,
- **Linda**

FROM GOOD TO GREAT

Recently, our leaders have continued investing in their development through a range of leadership learning opportunities, from practical workshops with the New Zealand Institute of Management to participating in a creative and thought-provoking series of workshops with Leadership Treehouse. By embracing different approaches to learning, we can better support the diverse strengths, perspectives, and learning styles within our team.
While new opportunities remain important at Hōhepa, it is equally valuable to pause and reflect on the progress already made. Our recent **Staff Satisfaction Survey** results provide an opportunity to do just that, and they reflect a **strong and growing sense of connection and purpose across the Hōhepa Wellington community**. Our staff continue to report a deep commitment to the people we support, positive relationships with colleagues, and confidence in their managers. It's particularly encouraging to see an increase in the number of staff who would recommend Hōhepa as a good place to work, rising to 77%.



"I also feel there is always room for growth and improvement, and from what Ive seen over the past year, we are continually moving in that direction"

LIVING OUR VALUES

We love 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.

Whakamana

Giving strength to and empowering individuals, and acting with integrity.

Sustainability

Recognising ecological, social and economic dimensions, in the knowledge that each dimension must be considered together, for sustained prosperity.

Responsiveness

Thoughtful engagements giving effect to decisive and agile responses to opportunities and challenges.

Connection

Cultivating genuine interactions that celebrate the inherent worth of human beings and the whenua.

Tika + Pono

Creating environments where integrity and authenticity thrives by doing what is right.

We're proud to have expanded our programme of activities with two new initiatives, each offering unique opportunities for people to engage according to their interests and strengths.

Awaken and Energise is a new movement and wellbeing class designed to support people to **connect** with themselves, each other, and the world around them. Sessions encourage participants to awaken their senses, bring awareness to their bodies, and experience the joy of movement in a way that feels accessible and meaningful.



Handwork and Felting is a creative programme that has something for everyone. Each stage of felting offers different ways to engage, allowing individuals to participate according to their interests, strengths, and preferences.
One of the creations being made is 'felt soap' as shown in the photo. A bar of soap is wrapped in soft wool and then wet-felted to create a snug covering. As the soap is used, the wool provides gentle exfoliation, helps create a lovely lather, and makes the soap easier to grip. Practical, **sustainable**, and handmade with care, it's a lovely example of creativity meeting everyday usefulness. And it looks beautiful too!





LIVING OUR VALUES





Our **Garden Sessions** are growing as we enter spring. There is a wide range of opportunities to get involved, from tending and harvesting herbs and vegetables, creating signs and markers for the garden, as well as drying and preparing products for use in cooking. Each stage provides meaningful ways for people to participate, contribute, and develop new skills while deepening their **connection** with the garden.

Additionally, our **Music Therapy** programme with Kāpiti Music Therapy has been broadened to include both a low-arousal and a more energetic session. This enables the sessions to be designed and delivered to better respond to individual needs and preferences. Reflecting Hohepa Wellington's values of **responsiveness** and **whakamana**, the sessions provide meaningful opportunities for people to build skills, explore interests, and participate in ways that support their wellbeing and sense of belonging.




Keep Kāpiti Beautiful

A group of individuals from our Hōhepa Wellington community are thoroughly enjoying being part of Keep Kāpiti Beautiful each week. There's something distinctly satisfying in spotting and collecting litter, and the activity brings plenty of smiles and a sense of purpose and **giving back to our local community**. Building **connection** with others is valuable for all of us, and we're loving partnering with this crew and caring for our local environment.







LIVING OUR VALUES

Lottery Grants Board
Te Puna Tahua
LOTTO FUNDS FOR YOUR COMMUNITY

We are grateful to have received a **Lottery Community Grant**, helping us take an important step forward in our **sustainability** journey. Our newly erected 90m² greenhouse has transformed our garden space, expanding our ability to grow plants year-round and continue meaningful gardening activities in all seasons. It opens up a wealth of new opportunities for the people we support to explore different aspects of horticulture, develop new skills, and grow more produce to share within our community and with our neighbours.







Where Work and Play Meet

A trip to the Stihl shop in Paraparaumu for estate work supplies is about more than picking up what is needed for a job. For Simon, the shop is a place where his strengths and contributions are recognised. **What began as work experience has grown into employment**, and he is now a valued member of the Stihl team. **Whakamana** and empowerment at its best! Visits are also an excellent opportunity to show his housemate, Timothy, around and give him the chance to check out some of the impressive machinery on display.







STIHL®

A WORD FROM THE BOARD

Helen Anderson



Kia ora koutou,

My claim to fame is being James' mum and he's been at Hōhepa Wellington for more than 3 years now. Following a period of being very unwell and nearly six months in hospital he was accepted into Hōhepa and he has flourished ever since. He's very happy to be with three friends at one of the Hinemoa St homes and he's about to move into another home with another special friend he's known high school. He truly is being supported to live the Hōhepa vision of *every life fully lived*.

I am also one of the Hōhepa Wellington board members and, in that capacity, I'm chairing the committee that's running a process to recruit **two new Board members**. One of these roles is to replace Amanda Hill who has been on the board for 3 years. She's an extraordinary colleague who brings a very strong sense of advocacy and a commitment to the wellbeing of all the people we support. We'll miss you Amanda. The Institute of Directors is managing the recruitment process for a new Board member to help us attract the widest possible range of candidates. With three family/whānau representatives already on the Board (Shane Gaskin, Souella Cumming, and myself) we're hoping to welcome someone who can bring complementary experience, fresh perspectives, and additional expertise to support Hōhepa Wellington's future. I'm excited to hear that (before the applications close) 30 people have already put their hands up. That shows what a good reputation we have as an organisation that delivers on its promise in a challenging sector.

When Souella, Shane and I attend family/whānau meetings I'm always struck by what an engaged and supportive group we have. I'm also aware that one of the hardest times for families is during the transition from home into our community. It's hard for the person we support, but that's undertaken with great care and commitment by our Hōhepa team led by Linda and Elisabeth. It's also very hard for the parents/caregivers, and I have personally benefitted from the support and understanding of other family/whānau who've been down this road already.

James is now living his best life thanks to our fabulous team at Hōhepa Wellington. I couldn't ask for better.

Ngā mihi nui
Helen Anderson

WELCOMES AND FAREWELLS

Since our last newsletter, we have been pleased to welcome five new Support Workers to the Hōhepa Wellington community: Talimai, Numi, Saskia, Simone, and Marry Ann. Additionally, four casual Support Workers transitioned into permanant roles with us. We have continued to strengthen our casual Support Worker team with the addition of Nonso, Airanee, and Alestine, helping us continue to provide flexible and responsive support.

At the same time, we said farewell to four permanent Support Workers. We thank them for their contribution to our community and wish them all the very best for the future.



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.

There's been plenty to see around the site lately as Phase One of our development project has got underway. This phase is focused on new **roading, carparking, and landscaping**, and it's certainly bringing a buzz of activity to our Otaihanga site. With so much happening each day, there are lots of opportunities to stop and watch the impressive equipment and skilled operators at work.

While the site is a little busier than usual, it's exciting to see the transformation taking shape. These improvements will enhance access, safety, and the overall look and feel of our environment.

We're looking forward to seeing Phase One completed and watching how these changes help lift and enhance our beautiful site for everyone to enjoy.















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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