

Abbeyfield Western Bay of Plenty Inc.

Latest News – June 2020



Hello Abbeyfield Supporters!

We're delighted to bring you another newsletter from our Abbeyfield Western Bay of Plenty Committee!

This Newsletter is late and we're very sorry and frustrated too – so much has had to be put on hold this year!

What an eventful year 2020 has been so far! Who would have thought we'd be in a "lockdown" for nearly three months? How did we all cope with that? What are our "war stories"?

It's been hard for some of us and right at the top of the hardship list would have been the isolation for a lot of us. On the positive side – it seems that gratitude is top of the list. The stories of neighbourliness and support are inspiring and encouraging.

Many of us were impressed with New Zealand's leadership during this time – our Prime Minister, Jacinda Adern and our Director General of Health, Dr Ashley Bloomfield were a powerful team with very a clear message for us.

How many of you tuned in to TV1 each day for the Covid-19 update? How important did that update become in our day? Did you feel comforted and / or safer listening to it?

And, we nearly made it! The first country in the world to become "Covid-free" – brief though that was. Let's hope this new wave stays small and contained – no one wants to go back to another lockdown!

All we need to do now is to keep up all those hygiene habits and positive thinking habits we became so good at. This way we can stay as well as possible going forward should there be a "second wave" of Covid-19 in New Zealand.

Abbeyfield Western Bay of Plenty Committee

Chairperson's Report

Hi all,

At the beginning of 2020 the committee had a plan. This year would be a push for us to gather the funding we needed to achieve our goal of the establishment of the first Abbeyfield House in the Western Bay of Plenty, in Katikati.

Work was undertaken to become a legal entity, our Business Plan was updated and our funding strategy was being developed.

Pauline and her team at the markets were raising funds to help us in our work. And we also had a meeting set up with the Western Bay of Plenty District Council.

Then Covid-19 arrived! That put a hold on everything!

So we moved in to lockdown. However as we now move out of the various levels we are getting back on track. We've just had our first face to face committee meeting and we're underway with plans for going forward looking at avenues for funding.

We also have an Annual General Meeting coming up! This AGM will be at the **Katikati Community Centre on 3 August at 3 p.m.** We expect that the meeting will be fairly short and it will be followed by afternoon tea.

We are keen to push ahead with our plans but it will very much depend on the economic environment as many of the entities with whom we planned to discuss funding may have been impacted by the current situation.

However, that will not stop our determination to have an Abbeyfield here in Western Bay of Plenty. So, please, if you know of anyone who is keen to financially support our vision and who believes that safe, affordable, quality accommodation is important for the older person then let us know. We would love to chat with them and share the concept. I am always very happy to talk with anyone who is keen to explore the Abbeyfield vision.

Kind regards

Carole Parker
Abbeyfield Katikati Chairperson

This Year's Meetings

Elected Representatives

During February this year we had meetings with both newly elected Councilors and members of the Community Board. We wanted to ensure that these representatives were aware of what Abbeyfield is all about and what we are trying to achieve in our local community. We wanted them to be up to speed when housing and social matters are discussed at any future meetings that they are attending. We told them where Abbeyfield Western Bay of Plenty is currently - accepted as an incorporated society, seeking charitable status as well as being fully incorporated into the Abbeyfield family. We made it clear that we were not asking for funding at this stage but asking for their support when it came to any council fees in the future and also about parcels of land that might be more central.

In both cases, we were very well received and a lot of searching questions were asked and answered albeit with the proviso that only once the site is finalised can the actual design be established. A lot of the discussion was around a site for the Abbeyfield House in Katikati (in case the present option doesn't come to fruition or a more centrally located piece of land becomes available).

Simon Hayes - Abbeyfield NZ Chairman

Simon made an informal visit to meet with some of us. He wanted to hear, first hand, where we are in our fundraising efforts. He also visited the site on which there is an option for the Abbeyfield house in Katikati.

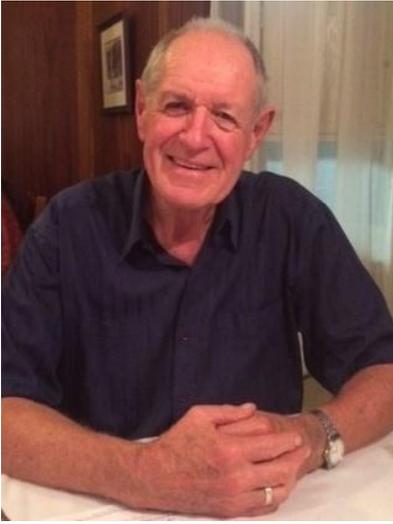
It was an excellent opportunity for the current committee members to hear of how some of the other houses cope with things like: employing a housekeeper/manager, whether accommodation should be provided for this person, how other houses have gone about their fundraising etc.

We appreciated the opportunity to meet with an Abbeyfield New Zealand senior executive.

As the Owl Sings....

"It's truly tough getting older, nothing is like it used to be, my husband is dead, my friends are all gone, my kids all live overseas...trust me I don't need your pity... I like my independence...time keeps marching on and on, so I don't regret what I lack...**we're not invisible, we're not senile**, all we'd like is a visit once in a while...." ***From the new movie – "Elder Birdsong". Recommended!***

Abbeyfield Honoured!



Longtime Abbeyfielder Peter Smale has been honoured for his services to seniors, the community and horticulture by being appointed a Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit in the Queen's Birthday Honours.

Peter was involved in the establishment of 10 Abbeyfield houses, is a former chairman of the Abbeyfield NZ board and also served internationally as a member of the Abbeyfield Society Board.

He received the Royal Patron's Award for his services to Abbeyfield in 2018.

Peter's Queen's Birthday honour also recognises his involvement with the Motueka Short-term Accommodation Charitable Trust, Rotary and other community organisations.

STUFF published an article about the honour along with an interview with Peter.

The headline read **"Abbeyfield model is 'beautiful', says honour-winning backer"** - and the article reads:

"Often described as "flating for older people", the Abbeyfield concept was started in London in 1956. The first New Zealand home opened its doors in the Nelson suburb of Stoke almost 26 years ago. There are now 14 Abbeyfield homes across the country including four in the Nelson-Tasman region

"Smale was involved with the establishment of 10 of those 14 homes. He also played a key role in restructuring the management of two houses, enabling them to remain viable. Smale has been a director and chairman of the NZ organisation and a UK trustee. In 2018, he received the Royal Patron's Award for his services to Abbeyfield.

"He remains a firm backer of the concept. "I think, it's brilliant because there's not many retirement villages that you can move into and still live within your pension," Smale said. "You don't have to buy in and you don't have to sell at the end – it's a beautiful model."