



March 2023

Hi All,

Thank you everyone that offered to help with the Taylor Bros Sheds and Studios event at the end of April.

We are working with Katch Katikati on this and as soon as we have the final details we will get in touch about what to expect and what we need to do.

We still have a couple of slots for people to fit in and help out if you available.

Just let me know.

Section celebration and Blessing.

What a fabulous afternoon, the sun was shining, the blessing was lovely and the food was delicious. Thank you to everyone who came along it was wonderful to have so many people joining us. It was a day to celebrate our section and to acknowledge the many people who had helped us get to this point.

We received numerous apologies, as there was lots happening that day and many people had other commitments.

For those who were unable to be there below is my speech. It was about thanking all the amazing people who have helped us reach this stage, and acknowledging all the hardwork by many people to secure our section.

Speech for the celebration and blessing of the Abbeyfield WBoP section.

Everyone here today is a special guest. So many of you have helped us to get to this stage. And we really, really, appreciate the encouragement, support and contributions we have received to get here. We are very fortunate to have such wide ranging support from many individuals and groups in Katikati, the Bay of Plenty and government.

Today is a tremendous step forward to achieving our goal of an Abbeyfield House for Katikati.

Something that began as an idea to address loneliness and housing needs of older people way back in 2017 has brought us here. Now we are a registered charity, we have paid for our section, we have a concept plan for our house, a growing bank account and a strategy to get us the funding we need to build.

I would like to acknowledge everyone here today, and the many more that could not join us. Your help as either a supporter, a donor, a volunteer at our many events and fundraisers, or running fundraising events on our behalf is invaluable. Some people have given us advice or just been there to make things happen. It is these many actions that have helped us raise the money to purchase our section.

You should know how much we appreciate all of this. This is indeed a day of thank you.

My thanks to the Abbeyfield Committee, you'll know who they are, they have the name badges on. They are the most amazing team of people, they always step up to do whatever is required to be done to make things happen, and over the past couple of years there's been lots happening and going forward there will be even more. I have appreciated your support, you have kept me on track when I needed it, and I have valued your generosity in giving your time and skills.

We also have a funding team that have worked tirelessly to organise and run fundraising events. They are currently working on a whole range of events for

2023. And the strategic team who draws up plans, proposals and funding applications. Our very grateful thanks to you all.

We have also been very appreciative of the various community groups and local business's who have either run events on our behalf or in conjunction with us. Your support and involvement is immeasurable. Thank you.

I would also like to especially thank some key individuals:

- Ineke Riley and her husband David. It was Ineke's vision that started us down the track of building an Abbeyfield house in response to what she heard and saw in her physiotherapy practice about the difficulties both financial and health wise for older people who struggled with finding appropriate, affordable, warm and suitable housing.
- Theo von Rijen who has generously helped us achieved our goal of a section. We very much appreciate your generosity Theo. I have also appreciated Theo's advice, and how he keeps me on track.

This land that the Abbeyfield house will be built on was once the Clarke family farm which ran from the Transfer station to here. When Mrs Clark sold this property her greatest wish was that it would in part provide housing for older people. We are sure that Mrs Clark would be delighted to know that we are going to build an Abbeyfield House on this land and fulfil her wishes.

Of course, we still have a way to go to get the funding to build the house. And we still need your help to do this. Please let other people know how needed an Abbeyfield House in Katikati is. If you know any philanthropists let them know how important this is. Tell them that once the house is built there are no ongoing operational costs and it is affordable on national super.

It is not for profit, nondenominational and is supported by a team of volunteers who take on the small jobs that make the house seem more like a home.

It provides older people with companionship, independence and the chance to spend their time doing the things they love and not worrying about shopping, cooking or how they will afford or maintain their property.

We are working to double any donations by seeking other match funding from government funds and trusts. Any donations made are eligible for tax relief.

There are many ways people, businesses and organisations can help, not always with money, although that's a big part of what we need. Please talk to any of the team and explore with them how you would like to continue to be involved

So, thank you, thank you so much for everything you have done to help us get to today and we look forward to sharing our journey with you over the coming months.

In acknowledgement and thanks for all your support and encouragement Kerry and Anne Guy have donated a bottle of their special Katikati made Wine for you to take home and enjoy. Many thanks Anne and Kerry.

After the chairpersons speech Susan Jenkins CEO of Abbeyfield New Zealand spoke, followed by Jan Tinetti who is the Labour List MP for Tauranga. Jan has been a great supported from the very beginning.

James Denyer also spoke and was, as always, very supportive of our plans.

Fundraising.

The fundraising committee is busy planning and organising a range of events and as they progress they will update you with what is happening. There are a mix of events, some old some new.

Watch out for the next newsletter which will have more details.

Kind regards

Carole

Chairperson, Abbeyfield WBop
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