

June 2010

From the Desk of the General Manager

To all staff, Residents, and their families / friends

In my February newsletter I advised you that sign-off had been given by the Rannerdale Trust to commence refurbishment of the Manuka and Kowhai Rest Home wing resident accommodation into hospital level care rooms. The project is now well underway and completion of the project is expected in the middle of July. This has been a significant project and the results so far have been very favourable.

Through the kind donations by Riccarton Rotary, the Keith Laugerson Trust and Ballantynes Department Store in Christchurch, each of the newly refurbished room has a wall mounted flat screened television and quality soft furnishings. The refurbished wings will be official opened by the Chief of Defence Force in November this year. My grateful thanks goes to staff, residents and their families who have shown patience with disruptions over the period of the project.

In April Rannerdale applied for and received accreditation to become a provider of the Nursing Council Competency Assessment Programme where overseas registered nurses complete a six-week competency programme at Rannerdale in order to be granted nursing registration to practice in New Zealand. We will be running five programmes a year with six students participating in each programme. The programme will bring great benefits to Rannerdale including supporting our ongoing education of nursing staff.

Our 2010 Anzac Day service went very well this year with in excess of 200 people attending. We do appreciate the support and good will of staff and the wider community in assisting us to make the service a meaningful experience for our residents and their families.

We continue to slowly grow our veterans home based services programme. We are now providing attendant support care seven-days a week into veterans' homes as well as providing gardening support. Whilst I would like to see a increase in numbers of veterans living in their own home benefiting from our service, funding is restricted for veterans on a veterans disability pension. However, I am confident we will continue to grow in this area, particularly with planned changes in the War Disability Pension Act.

It was wonderful to see that John Masters, Lieutenant Colonel (Ret) MC was awarded the newly created Anzac of the Year Award by the Governor General earlier this year. John has been a great supporter of Rannerdale over a number of years including being chairman of the Board of Trustees. John has and continues to be a courageous fighter for veterans' rights

Stephen Shamy
General Manager