

SPRING 2019 QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER
Phone (06) 759 9196 | www.ageconcern.org.nz



Age Concern Taranaki

Serving the needs of older people



FREE NEWSLETTER TARANAKI WIDE

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Contact Information

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OFFICE HOURS

10.00am - 2.00pm Monday to Friday

BOARD OF AGE CONCERN TARANAKI

Chair Person: David Gibson

Acting Vice Chairperson: Alison Brown

Treasurer: John Albers

Board Members:

Elizabeth Albers, Marianne Pike, Alison Brown

Disclaimer: The information contained in this newsletter is not necessarily the view of Age Concern Taranaki. While it is believed to be correct, readers should consult their own advisers.



A REST HOME WITH SPARK

Chalmers Home

20 Octavius Place, New Plymouth

Offering rest home and hospital care, respite, health recovery and a popular day programme.

Chalmers Home is more than just a rest home, it's an elder-centred community that recognises older people as individuals and supports them in a way that's right for them. We offer companionship, choice, variety, meaningful activity, independence and fun.

Come and see!

Call us on (06) 758 5190

A word from the Executive Officer's Desk...



I was privileged to attend the wedding of Age Concern Taranaki Chairperson David Gibson to Naida Tuirirangi-Gibson on Saturday 27th July 2019. See front cover photograph. It was a lovely sunny Taranaki day with a garden wedding set against

a stunning backdrop of East End ocean views and sunset. Whānau and friends joined David and Naida by witnessing the ceremony and telling the story of how the met and got to know one another. It was a beautiful; I hope you all join with me and wishing David and Naida many happy years together.

Age Concern Taranaki Board and staff acknowledge the passing of long standing Board member and Vice Chairperson Alison Howie. Alison was dedicated to the health and wellbeing of older people in South Taranaki. Her drive and knowledge will be missed.

Age Concern Taranaki are pleased to welcome Taran Gill to the team. Taran started work in August and is based in Hawera. Her full time role is focused on Age Connect Taranaki programme, connecting older people and reducing isolation. See page 4 for further information.

Age Concern Taranaki Annual General Meeting (AGM) is on Wednesday 18th September at 11:00am at De Burghs Adams Lodge, 9 Lawry Street, New Plymouth. I hope to see you there to hear about the positive year Age Concern Taranaki has had as we grow in what services we offer and meet the wonderful staff and Board that are to credit for the good work that is being undertaken.

Please enjoy the articles and photographs in this newsletter. If you would like to give us any feedback or donate to Age Concern Taranaki please contact me on (06) 759 9196 or 0800 243 0625 or info@ageconcerntaranaki.org.nz

I wish you all a warm and happy spring.

Keryn Roderick - Executive Officer

Driving Miss Daisy

We are not just for seniors!

Over the years Driving Miss Daisy has built up a reputation for providing a high quality service to senior citizens who no longer drive. They are a regular at retirement villages and rest homes across the country and senior citizen clients form the largest proportion of their client base. But did you know that they also provide our services to younger people who don't drive?

Some clients have a disability or medical condition which means they can't drive, however this doesn't stop them from being very active in other areas of their life; they work in a professional capacity, run businesses, attend school or tertiary education and enjoy socialising with friends. Driving Miss Daisy drives these clients to their place of work or business meetings, assists them to their lectures and social occasions, ensuring they are where they need to be in plenty of time.

They treat every client as an individual, no matter what their personal circumstance. Every client has different needs, and they make sure they discuss this with their clients so that they fully understand them and provide them with the absolute best support and service.

For Driving Miss Daisy, it's imperative that all their clients are treated with dignity and respect. They are committed to helping their clients get out and about, so they can live life to the full and enjoy every moment.

If you have an activity you would like them to help with please call them today to discuss – they look forward to seeing you soon!

Editorial supplied by Driving Miss Daisy

Driving Miss Daisy - we're there for you!



Driving Miss Daisy is your safe, friendly and reliable companion driving service.

We can help with:

- Transporting you to your appointments
- Grocery shopping
- Airport pick-ups
- Companion outings
- Taking children to outings
- Transporting your pet!

Total Mobility cards accepted and an ACC approved provider.

Bookings are essential – call Mel today and make your next outing a pleasure!

New Plymouth

Phone: (06) 751 0209

Mobile: 027 773 3268



Driving Miss Daisy®

www.drivingmissdaisy.co.nz



Notice of AGM

**Wednesday 18 September 2019
at 11.00am**

**Venue:
De Burghs Adams Lodge
9 Lawry Street, New Plymouth**

**A light lunch will be provided
at the end of the AGM**

For enquiries phone 759 9196

All Welcome

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ageconcerntaranaki](https://www.facebook.com/ageconcerntaranaki)**

**Age Concern Taranaki (Inc) thanks
the following organisations for their
support and sponsorship**



Age Connect Taranaki

Age Connect Taranaki aims to increase social connections for older people, leading to a decrease in loneliness and improvement in health and well-being. This programme brings Age Concern Taranaki (ACT) social connection programmes under one umbrella.

ACT will continue with coffee mornings, social mornings, singing mornings and outings (see What's On – page 7). In addition, Age Concern Taranaki welcome a new staff member Taran Gill to the team to lead Age Connect Taranaki. Taran will be working full time and is based in Hawera at the Ministry of Social Development (MSD) building on Union Street. Taran has a friendly, professional manner. She has a graduate diploma in health studies and has worked with elderly. Taran's role includes:



Taran

- Consult with South Taranaki and wider Taranaki community as to what social connection programmes are occurring and what the gaps are.
- Populate, maintain and promote a database of Age Connect/social connection opportunities throughout Taranaki.
- Support people to meet their own social requirements and, if appropriate, to participate in a wider range of community activities.
- To continue/enhance existing Age Concern Taranaki social connection programmes in South Taranaki and Stratford districts.
- Prioritise/commence new Age Concern Taranaki social connection programmes
- Link with community agencies to determine older people requiring connections in the community.
- To recruit, select training and provide accreditation and support for visitors of Accredited Visitor Service (AVS).

Age Concern Taranaki welcome you to get in touch with us and let us know what is going on in your community and what you would like to see start up.

Please email info@ageconcerntaranaki.org.nz or phone the office on (06) 7599 196 or 0800 2430 625.

Age Connect Taranaki is supported by TSB Community Trust.

JEAN SANDEL RETIREMENT VILLAGE

Where community shapes the heart of your retirement



Jean Sandel Retirement Village is a vibrant community where residents enjoy a carefree retirement in the company of like-minded friends.

The village is located in Whalers Gate, situated on an elevated and sunny site which encompasses views of the sea and Mt Taranaki.

With independent townhouses and apartments, assisted living in serviced apartments, resthome, hospital and dementia care, there is often no need to move away from the village that has become your home if your health needs change.

Discover all that a Ryman village has to offer.



To enquire about availabilities
at the village phone Michelle
on 751 4504

71 Barrett Road, New Plymouth



Elder Abuse Response Service (EARS)

Kia Ora readers! Welcome to the elder abuse response section of this quarters newsletter.

As mentioned in the previous columns, I'd like to dedicate this space to a particular type of abuse that is specific to elder abuse. For our winter article I wrote about financial abuse so following on from that, I would like to discuss physical abuse.

In our society, it's a 'norm' for people to imagine a violent man battering his female partner when we hear of physical abuse. While this too is an important issue that needs attention and dedicated people working to prevent it, I would like us to focus on a very different form of physical abuse.

Physical abuse inflicted on older people is happening right here in Taranaki. We know from years of research and gathering statistics that 75% of elder abuse is being perpetrated by family members. Whether this is adult children or grandchildren, nieces & nephews, in laws who have married into

the family, anyone who has frequent contact with an older person has the ability to cause harm.

If we imagine how vulnerable an older person is who may live alone, they may rely completely on their abuser for care. They might be isolated, unable to communicate or even have a cognitive impairment such as Dementia, making them ever further vulnerable to abuse. So if we now consider a situation where a carer/family member is more physically capable and most likely has made the older person fearful through the use of psychological abuse (we know more than one type of abuse can occur at once). We can start to see just how easy it can be for physical abuse to occur and to go unnoticed.

When discussing physical abuse of an older person, it is important to think about 'carer stress'. This is term used to explain how stressful and difficult it must be for a caregiver taking care of an older person 24/7. Sometimes that person may need some respite relief or further education on caring for older people to prevent abuse from happening.

As a social worker, I need to look out for signs of physical abuse. These include things like, bruises cuts and abrasions. It might be regular fractures or sprains and grip marks or hair loss. We must remember that medication is a huge contributor of physical abuse. Over-medicating makes older people drowsy and easier to make decisions for them. While withholding their medication can be very painful and cause harm. The most important sign however, is the person themselves indicating/disclosing that physical abuse has occurred.

Physical abuse is very serious and we need to ensure our loved ones are cared for adequately. So make sure you're checking in on your friends or family members who are at risk of isolation. Look out for warning signs of physical abuse and check in with those taking on the role of a caregiver. Perhaps they need a break too!

Thank you all for taking the time to read up on elder abuse/physical abuse and if you want to know more, we have several resources down at the office. Or if you need to call in and request an appointment with myself to have a confidential chat about someone you may be concerned about call the number below.

Sinead Thomas Registered Social Worker
Age Concern Taranaki - 06 759 9196



ELTHAM

SAYGO > Steady As You Go Falls Prevention Class held on a Thursday **10.00am**.
All Saints Church, 88 King Street, Eltham.

HAWERA

Coffee Mornings > Held on Thursday mornings 10.30am - 11.30am.
St John's Church Hall, 35 Argyle Street, Hawera.

Social Mornings > Held on the third Thursday of the month. 10.30am - 11.30am.
St John's Church Hall, 35 Argyle Street, Hawera.
(may include a Guest Speaker, a topic of discussion or an activity).

SAYGO > Steady As You Go Falls Prevention Classes are held weekly on a Tuesday at 10.00am at 35 Argyle Street, Hawera.

NEW PLYMOUTH

Aqua Exercise > This is held weekly on Monday mornings at the Todd Energy Aquatic Centre at 10.15am. Please phone our office (06) 759 9196 to register for Aqua Exercise.

Drop In Cafe > This cosy Drop in Cafe is held on the first, third and fourth Thursdays of the month. Come along and join us at 10am for a cuppa and great company at 28 Young Street, New Plymouth.

Social Morning > Our Social morning at 28 Young Street is held on the second Thursday of the month. We have Guest Speakers who provide the group with relevant information, health education and other interesting topics. Starting with morning tea at 10am.

Warm Up Wednesday > This fun filled morning

of Singalong continues every second and fourth Wednesday of the month. Come along and enjoy a great singalong, morning tea, fun, music and make friends. A light lunch is served at the conclusion of the morning. 10am - 12.30pm. Gold coin donation.

Monthly Outing > The first Wednesday of the month is our Outing. A great day out incorporating lunch and a visit to a place of interest. Please phone Pauline to express your interest.

SAYGO > Steady As You Go, Falls Prevention Strength and Balance Classes are held in New Plymouth. Tuesdays at 10.30am at St Mary's Complex Lounge, 37 Vivian Street, \$3 per class and on Fridays 11am at Disabilities Citizens Rooms, 83 Hine Street \$2 per class.

OPUNAKE

SAYGO > Steady As You Go Falls Prevention Class held on a Monday 10.00am. Tainui Day Centre, 142 Tasman Street, Opunake.

STRATFORD

Coffee Morning > 2nd Friday of the month from 11am. It is a great opportunity to get together for a cup of tea, socialise and make friends. Held at St Andrews Church Hall, 88 Regan St, Stratford.

SAYGO > Steady As You Go Falls Prevention Classes are held on a Friday at 10.00am at St Andrews Presbyterian Church Hall, Regan Street, Stratford.



Stratford Coffee Morning Group

Make the best decision of your life at MiLife

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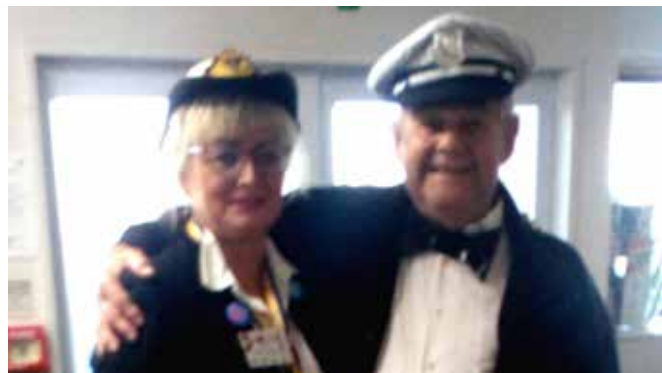
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All occupation licences for units at the village are secured by a first-ranking mortgage over the village land in favour of the Statutory Supervisor.



WE ARE SAILING

We were cruising in style at our June Social Morning here in New Plymouth. A "Love Boat" themed fun event was shared by many including The Captain, and his crew - The Cruise Director, The Ships Maintenance Staff, The Doctor, A Bartender and many classy passengers on journey to the tropics.



All passengers were issued with boarding passes and in true Cruising style we had a tropical buffet morning tea with fresh pineapple, coconuts, bananas on the menu accompanied with tropical music on my island style ukulele. Two entertainment ladies rocked up in style with some lovely singing and a couple of stowaways made an appearance on the day too.

Your Cruise Director - *Pauline Julian.*



Five guest speakers who are all members individually shared their experiences of Cruising around the world with amazing stories and enjoyable memories, bringing along keepsakes, maps, their lanyards and other cruise ship collectables. I had also invited "Mark" in full official uniform from The Navy to speak to the group on his role at the Royal New Zealand Naval Base in Devonport - Auckland. This was a real highlight of the morning.



SCOOTERS AVAILABLE
Coastal Walkway and Pukekura Park

BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL
Call 06-759 6060
or 022 166 8720

NPDC

A weekly coffee morning started in Hawera in early February and it has been going from strength to strength ever since. Each week we have between 12 and 15 people coming along for good conversation, and a delicious morning tea provided by Hawera Countdown.

The topics of discussion vary widely, and have included scam phone calls, the Hawera mayoralty race, electric cars and the on-going issues at Hawera Hospital

On the third Thursday of each month we usually have a speaker, or special topic for discussion. In July, as we hit the middle of winter, we decided to have a Mid-winter Christmas party. Everyone contributed a plate of food and a small inexpensive gift to exchange anonymously. There were some practical gifts, and some other very comical gifts which made us laugh.

We gather every Thursday from 10.30 in the Presbyterian Hall on Argyle Street, and everyone is more than welcome to come along and join us.



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Staying at home in your later years is now an affordable and safe option thanks to the care and support Care on Call provides.

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HealthCare New Zealand

Being independent is key to our quality of life. For most people, that means staying in our own homes, close to our family, friends, communities and favourite activities.

Sometimes we need a hand to maintain our independence, and that's where HealthCare New Zealand can offer high quality help, tailored to your lifestyle.

HealthCare New Zealand supports people around the country with personal care, home management and domestic support, nursing services and rehabilitation. Their specialist skills, knowledge and expertise lets them work with you to create a plan that suits your needs, regardless of age, illness, injury or disability.

With a national network of experienced and trained professionals, HealthCare New Zealand works alongside people and their families each step of the way, with a personalised support plan that incorporates your needs and goals.

With a toll-free 0800 number and website – www.healthcarenz.co.nz it's easy to get the support that works for you.



With over 30 years of experience and a professional team of local, caring and highly qualified staff, we can support you to live independently in your own home.

Our services include:

- Personal care
- Home care services
- Nursing services
- Goal based services

Our services are fully certified and in some cases may be free for eligible residents.

We also support privately paying clients.

For more information:
Freephone: 0800 000 119
www.healthcarenz.co.nz

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HealthCare
New Zealand
Rehabilitation. Community Health.



Steady As You Go®

Falls Prevention Exercise Classes



Mon	10.00 am	Tainui Day Centre	142 Tasman St, <u>Opunake</u>
Tues	10.15 am	Presbyterian Church	35 Argyle St, <u>Hawera</u>
Tues	10.30 am	St Marys Complex	37 Vivian St, <u>New Plymouth</u>
Wed	10.30 am	Inglewood United Church	30 Brown St <u>Inglewood</u>
Thurs	10.00 am	All Saints Church	88 King Edward St, <u>Eltham</u>
Thurs	1.30 pm	Merrilands Domain Hall	251 Mangorei Rd <u>New Plymouth</u>
Fri	10.00 am	St Andrews Church	88 Regan St, <u>Stratford</u>
Fri	11.00 am	Disabled Citizens Society	83 Hine Street, <u>New Plymouth</u>

For more information contact Age Concern Taranaki

Phone: 0800 243 625 or 06 759 9196

LIVE STRONGER FOR LONGER
PREVENT FALLS & FRACTURES



Come along and join us at Warm Up Wednesday Singalong and Social Occasion

including morning tea, spot prizes, a hot soup and toast light lunch, singing and fabulous fun.

Held every second and fourth Wednesday of the month at de Burgh's Adams Lodge, 9 Lawry St, Moturoa, New Plymouth. 10 am - 12.30 pm.

A gold coin donation is appreciated to assist with Age Concern Taranaki organisational costs.

Kindly supported by Taurima Rest Home, Moturoa 4 Square and Blagdon 4 Square.

It is certainly a great morning, See You There!

Pauline Julian Service Coordinator



Thank goodness my book finally arrived,
I almost started cleaning the house.



Friendly, local personal transport – Total Mobility accepted and wheelchair accessible

Call Freedom Drivers for medical, business and personal appointments or assistance with shopping. How about a drive with a stop for morning or afternoon tea for yourself and a couple of friends?

"We bring our friendly service to your door providing extra help at either end of the journey as needed. For medical appointments, we make sure you get to the right place and will wait if necessary or pick you up after the appointment. Travelling with Freedom is like travelling with friends or family - you build a relationship with a driver you get to know and trust."

Service is personal and our prices are comparable to (and often less) than a standard taxi. We take Total Mobility cards (TM) and we are ACC Registered Vendors. Our comfortable vehicles are at the ready with wheelchair access if needed.

Call Diana today on 027 585 2019 or toll free on 0800 956 956 to find out more.

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0800 956 956**

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Central Audiology Taranaki

Central Audiology has been a leading hearing specialist throughout Taranaki with clinics in New Plymouth, Stratford and Hawera. With over 20 years of experience working in the Taranaki region, we know and value our customers and community.

We're the only 100% independently owned and operated audiology practice in the region with the largest supply in the latest hearing aid technology. This means we are able to tailor your hearing needs to suit you.

We're a primary provider to the Taranaki District Health board, and you can visit us whether you're referred by your GP, or want to approach us directly. At Central Audiology we want to ensure that you're not missing out on the important sounds of life.

Call us today on 0800 and book a FREE hearing check at one of our clinics. We're here to help.

Editorial supplied by Central Audiology Taranaki

Taranaki's hearing, caring specialists



- Hearing health checks
- Hearing aid advice and fittings
- Expert knowledge to manage tinnitus

Central Audiology
TARANAKI

Visit our website www.centralaudiology.co.nz
Clinics in New Plymouth, Stratford and Hawera
20 Robe St (next to Police Station), New Plymouth
FREephone 0800 751 000

OUTINGS

Our Age Concern Taranaki Outings are held on the first Wednesday of the month. This is a great occasion for members to attend an organised luncheon together, make friends, socialise and enjoy each others company. Following lunch our group then have the opportunity to visit a place of interest, a garden, a business or something special in our local community.

Recently we held our annual Mid Winter Olympics in Waitara following a delicious midday lunch at The T & C Club and in August we travelled to Inglewood for a lovely Roast Meal at The Fern Lodge and also a visit to Tricky Dicky Motorbikes and Collections.



As numbers are limited and transport is coordinated, members are required to express their interest to Pauline at our Office. Ph 06 759 9196

Do you feel that you spend too much time on your own? Maybe you know someone else who doesn't have many visitors?

The Accredited Visiting Service (AVS) has caring volunteers who are keen to spend time with an older person in the community.

Our volunteers have all been reference and police checked, and are available to spend about an hour each week in the home of an older person. This time is spent chatting, perhaps having a cup of tea, and generally providing company to someone who otherwise may not see anyone else from one week to the next.

If you would like to discuss the service, either for yourself or someone you know, please get in touch with me as I have volunteers ready to start visiting now.

Aylene



The October Outing is going to be a celebration of the International Day of Older Persons. This will be held on Wednesday the 2nd of October 2019 at Pukekura Park.

For more information, contact Pauline at Age Concern Taranaki on 06 759 9196 or 0800 243 625

When nothing goes right...go left

Help paint the town orange for the arthritis annual appeal

Arthritis New Zealand needs your help to paint the town orange during this year's Annual Street Appeal between 24 and 30 September, with its main collection day taking place on Friday 27 September. Staff, volunteers and supporters will take to the streets to shake buckets to raise funds and awareness to help us improve the life of every person affected by arthritis. People with arthritis face many challenges including reduced mobility, pain, and being unable to work, all of which can impact their mental wellbeing too.

If you'd like to be part of this year's street appeal, please contact Adrienne Walker-Regan by phoning 0800 663 463 or email awr@arthritis.org.nz.

LIVING YOUR BEST LIFE WITH ARTHRITIS

Information sharing session with practical ideas on how to live well with arthritis; Osteoarthritis, Rheumatoid Arthritis and Gout Arthritis. Arthritis Educator: Lori Davis.

THURSDAY 12TH SEPTEMBER 2019
1.30PM - 2.30PM & 3PM - 4PM

TARANAKI DISABILITIES INFO CENTRE
28 YOUNG ST, NEW PLYMOUTH

To register please call Arthritis New Zealand on 0800 663 463 or email bookings@arthritis.org.nz

No charge but donations are welcome

www.facebook.com/ArthritisNewZealand
www.arthritis.org.nz



editorial supplied by Arthritis New Zealand

Spring is a miraculous experience. The whole world comes alive after the winter in which it seemed that everything was dead. The world comes filled with color and the scent of delicious greenery. The world that seemed so dull and cold has come alive once again. Little did we know that beneath the cold hard ground the plants and trees were preparing for rebirth. Spring gives us hope for rejuvenation in our own lives as well. Spring is a time to renew the excitement and zest for life that lives inside



FORM OF BEQUEST

Take or send to your Legal Advisor for incorporation in your Will.

“I give and bequeath the sum of \$ _____ (or) _____% of my estate, (or) residue of my estate, (or) property or assets as follows:

free of all charges, to Age Concern Taranaki. The official receipt of the Executive Officer or other authorised officer of the Board shall be a sufficient discharge to my executors”.

FROZEN CONVENIENCE MEALS AT AGE CONCERN TARANAKI

You can purchase tasty, wholesome, nutritional frozen meals from our Office at 28 Young Street New Plymouth Monday to Friday during Office hours 10 am – 2 pm.

We also offer a delivery service on a Friday morning (within New Plymouth City perimeters) at a cost of \$5.

Do you fancy a Roast Meal – Pork, Chicken, Beef or Lamb complete with vegetables and gravy, a Family Meal - Lamb Hotpot, Sticky Asian Pork Belly and Beef Casserole - all \$10 each. Or perhaps a tasty Snack Meal – Cottage Pie, Spaghetti Bolognese, Macaroni Cheese and other variants available too - \$5.50 each.

Not forgetting Chocolate Fudge Pudding and Sticky Date Pudding as a dessert - \$5.50 each.

These are easy to cook in your microwave or conventional oven. Convenient for Everyone

TOMORROWS MEALS are here TODAY.

Ph 06 759 9196 to place your order.

TOMORROW'S MEALS

A new range of Frozen Meals, Snacks & Desserts

As good as home made!

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ROAST LAMB

TOMORROW'S MEALS
COTTAGE PIE

TOMORROW'S MEALS
FAMILY MEAL

TOMORROW'S MEALS
STICKY ASIAN PORK BELLY

TOMORROW'S MEALS
CREAMY BACON POTATO BAKE

BEQUESTS

You can help the future of Age Concern Taranaki with the Gift of a Bequest.

A bequest in your will is a wonderful way for you to continue helping Age Concern Taranaki, even after you've gone. A bequest can really help us with the work we do and help us to fulfil our mission of: *"Promoting well being, rights, respect and dignity for older people"*.

After providing for your family, you can confirm that you want to leave part or all of what is left of your estate to charity.

Bequests can be made in cash, shares, real estate or any other property and can be made as way of a gift during your lifetime, or bequeathed as part of your will.

The amount can be as much or as little as you wish to make it, and it can be for general use by our organisation, or you can specify in what way you would like us to spend the money. You are welcome to ask us what would make a real difference with the work we do.

You would need to contact your solicitor, or your trust company (if you have one), to ask them to insert a clause in your will.

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS

Their support enables the production of this newsletter, so please support them.

JOIN AGE CONCERN TARANAKI MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS

WELCOME FOR YEAR ENDING 30 SEPT 2020

Please complete the following and post with payment to: Age Concern Taranaki, PO Box 15, Taranaki Mail Centre, New Plymouth 4340.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Ethnicity Origin (or race) (please tick):

☐ New Zealand European

☐ Maori

☐ Pacific Peoples

☐ Other Ethnicity

Please specify: _____

Subscriptions (please tick):

☐ Single \$15.00 ☐ Couple \$15.00

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Paid by: ☐ Cash ☐ Cheque ☐ Direct Credit

Bank account: 15-3953-0717362-00 (Ref: Your name)

Donations Bequests and Legalities

Please help our work by including a donation (tax deductible over \$5).

You can make a donation at any time.

Leave a gift to Age Concern Taranaki in your Will and create a lasting legacy. If you would like to know more about how to bequest or leave a legacy contact your legal advisor.

My young grandson called the other day to wish me Happy Birthday. He asked me how old I was and I told him. My grandson was quiet for a moment, and then he asked, "Did you start at 1?"

QuinLaw - Barristers & Solicitors

Mental capacity

Today scientists and researches know more about the brain, how it functions and how it will not function in certain situations. There is more and more understanding of capacity issues, partial capacity and capacity for certain actions. Lawyers are now looking more at brain activity, brain action and brain ability and therefore lack of brain ability.

One of the interesting things is that in the previous Enduring Powers of Attorney form, the donor needed the capacity to understand that he or she was giving control to another person for their welfare and/or property. The new form, 2017 which is designed to prevent abuse, has actually raised the test for capacity. No doubt this was not intentional. However, it means that for some people who used to be able to do Powers of Attorney because they knew they were handing over the control to Mum or Dad, or daughter, now require a higher level of understanding before Lawyers can witness the Power of Attorney.

This has already led to difficulties in our practice because there are people now who don't meet the standard for doing a Power of Attorney, but they also don't meet the criteria for a court Order which is another higher standard again. Consequently, there will be a small number of people left in limbo.

I am sure this will be sorted and hopefully will revert to the earlier standard which was, "Did the person understand that he or she was giving the power over their welfare and/or property to Mum, Dad or X". That has been the test for 27 years.

Another interesting point is that there are 127 conditions which can cause a person to lose mental capacity. There are slightly different signs/features to all the different conditions. Everyone wants a diagnosis but in fact there are only two conditions where definitively Doctors can diagnose the cause of lost mental capacity while the person is alive. So often there may not be a clear cut answer or a definitive answer about the cause of brain deterioration and mental capacity.

Editorial supplied by QuinLaw

For the MOST important decisions of your life see us

QuinLaw are dedicated to offering professional and cost effective legal services with a personal touch.

At QuinLaw "people matter"

- ✓ Estate Planning
- ✓ Wills and Trusts
- ✓ Enduring Powers of Attorney
- ✓ Sales
- ✓ Purchases



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