

# VILLAGE NEWS

*The official newsletter of Elmswood Retirement Village*



## **Hello Everyone**

Happy New Year!

We hope you all enjoyed a lovely Christmas with family and friends. Our festive celebrations were very successful. Christmas Brunches & Dinners, Christmas door & Villa window competitions, and a Christmas lights night drive proved very popular, plus much more.

We are looking forward to a busy and fun filled year.

## A Note from Chrissy Village Manager

Dear Residents, Families, and Friends,

Welcome to our Summer newsletter. I hope this finds you all well and enjoying the warmer summer days. As always, I would like to take a moment to thank our residents, families, and staff for the continued kindness, patience, and support that make our village such a special place to live and work.

The run up to Christmas was a busy and positive one across the village. I continue to be impressed by the sense of community here — from residents supporting one another, to staff going the extra mile every day to provide safe, respectful, and compassionate care. It is a privilege to be part of such a dedicated and caring environment.

Our activities programme continues to offer a variety of options to suit different interests and abilities. Residents have particularly enjoyed music sessions, games, and gentle exercise. We always welcome suggestions, and residents are encouraged to speak with the activities team if there is something new, they would like to see included.

A look ahead shows plenty of exciting activities planned for the coming month, including entertainment, social gatherings, and Waitangi Day celebrations.

### **Celebrations & Milestones**

We would like to wish a very happy birthday to all residents celebrating this month. It is always a pleasure to acknowledge these special occasions and share in the celebrations together. Our activities team organise lovely afternoon teas to celebrate resident birthdays throughout the year.

### **Staff Recognition**

I would like to sincerely thank all staff for their continued hard work and commitment. The care, professionalism, and teamwork demonstrated every day do not go unnoticed. A warm welcome also goes out to new staff members who have recently joined our team — we are delighted to have you with us.

This month we welcomed on board Lindsay Robertson in the role of Maintenance Coordinator. Lindsay joins us after moving from Stewart Island, returning to the mainland to be closer to family.

### **Maintenance & Environment**

Maintenance and grounds work has continued across the village, with a focus on keeping our environment safe, comfortable, and pleasant for everyone. Recent work has included general repairs and ongoing garden upkeep. We're also pleased to share that the 10 km/h markings on the driveways have now been freshly repainted as a helpful safety reminder for all.

## Health, Safety & Wellbeing

Resident wellbeing remains our top priority. We continue to closely monitor health and safety across the village and encourage everyone to stay well hydrated during the warmer months. Thank you to residents and families for your ongoing cooperation and understanding with any health and safety measures in place.

We also encourage regular exercise, as it helps maintain strength, supports independence, and benefits brain health and memory. One of the best exercises for older adults is the simple sit-to-stand movement from a chair or heading out for a gentle walk. So go ahead—take a stroll and invite a neighbour to join you.

With summer and warmer weather here, tummy bugs such as the norovirus can spread more easily. Our infection control procedures help to limit the risk, with good hand hygiene being the most effective way to prevent spread. We kindly remind all visitors not to enter the facility if they are feeling unwell.

## Communication & Feedback

We value open, respectful communication and welcome feedback from residents and families. Your comments help us reflect on our services and continue to improve. Please feel free to speak with me at any time if you have questions, concerns, or suggestions.

There are several ways you can share your feedback. Complaints, Suggestions, and Compliments forms are available in the Community Centre, at the Hospital entrance, and by the nurse's station in the Apartments. All complaints are reported to our Quality & Risk Committee and are audited by the Ministry of Health. Compliments are always appreciated and are shared in our staff newsletters.

At Elmswood, we are committed to maintaining a high standard of care and service and strive at all times to meet the requirements of the **Health and Disability Commissioner's Code of Rights**



## **The Code of Rights**

The Code of Rights sets out your legal rights as a consumer of health and disability services with a purpose to provide protection and quality of service for consumers. There are 10 rights in the Code of Rights, and a poster of these rights is displayed at each of the entrances to the main building and at the Community Centre.

### **The 10 rights are:**

- 1: The right to be treated with respect.
- 2: The right to freedom from discrimination, coercion, harassment, and exploitation.
- 3: The right to dignity and independence.
- 4: The right to services of an appropriate standard.
- 5: The right to effective communication.
- 6: The right to be fully informed.
- 7: The right to make an informed choice and give informed consent.
- 8: The right to support.
- 9: Rights in respect of teaching or research.
- 10: The right to complain.

## **Retirement Village Code of Practice**

When a resident purchases a Villa, Apartment or Studio they are protected by the Retirement Villages Code of Practice (CoP) which sets out the minimum requirements the operator must meet, or ensure are met, to fulfil their legal obligation under the Retirement Villages Act (2003). The code contains information that improves the resident's protection and awareness and provides a minimum standard that the operator must achieve or exceed.

Thank you all for being part of our village community. It is the people — residents, families, and staff — who make this such a warm and welcoming place. As always, my door is open, and I am happy to talk if you have anything you would like to discuss.

Kind Regards

Chrissy Miller  
Village Manager

# Village Activities

**Kia ora koutou and Happy New Year from the Activities team!**

## Melbourne Cup - 4 November 2025

Another stylish highlight on the Elmswood social calendar was our Melbourne Cup celebration on 4 November 2025. Residents arrived dressed to impress in their finest race-day outfits and eye-catching hats — with some delightfully outrageous fashion statements turning many heads. Our kitchen team treated everyone to a scrumptious spread that was thoroughly enjoyed by all. Congratulations to Nancy Boyes and Gibb Lee, who took out the Best Dressed prizes, and to Evan Thomas for winning Most Outrageous Outfit. The excitement continued with the sweepstakes, won by Helen Street and June McCormick, rounding off a fabulous afternoon of fun, flair, and friendly competition.



# Christmas Music Highlights at Elmswood

Over the Christmas season, Elmswood was filled with wonderful music and festive cheer thanks to several outstanding performances. The Rangī Ruru Girls filled the Care Suite with beautiful Christmas carols, setting a warm and joyful tone for the season.



The Cobham Intermediate School Orchestra delivered a fantastic concert, showcasing many talented young musicians and a beautiful range of music.



The Christchurch Symphony Orchestra Woodwind Trio delighted residents with an interactive performance, sharing fascinating insights about their instruments, how long they've been playing, and their roles within the orchestra — residents were especially amazed to learn the contra bass flute is valued at \$100,000!



Another highlight was the impressive performance by Cathedral Grammar School, which brought joy and Christmas spirit to everyone in attendance.



## Christmas at Elmswood

The holiday spirit was alive and well at Elmswood! Our Apartment and Care Suite Christmas brunch was a heart-warming celebration, with over 30 family members joining residents to share laughter, festive cheer, and a delicious spread of seasonal treats.

Our Villa residents celebrated Christmas Dinner in style, dressed in their finest and ready to enjoy a truly special feast. The evening was filled with compliments all around—residents described the meal as “the best ever,” “outstanding,” and “beautifully presented,” making it a Christmas to remember for everyone.



## Upcoming Events

### Art Classes at Elmswood

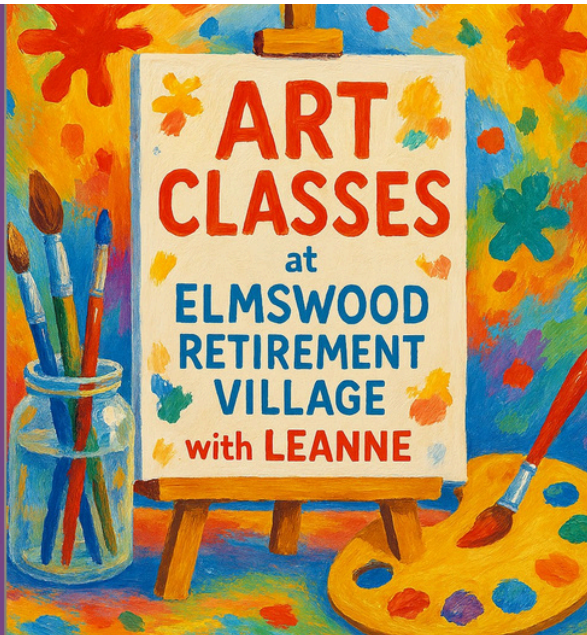
Discover your creativity with local artist Leanne from Art & Soul!

Class Fee: \$60 per 2 hour class

Bring Your Own Art Supplies  
Work on Your Own Painting  
Commencing in 2026, depending on interest

Register your interest with the Activities Team

*Enjoy a relaxed, supportive environment and learn new techniques while expressing yourself through art. A suitable image will appear below, featuring a welcoming and creative atmosphere with artistic elements like paintbrushes, easels, and colorful paint splashes—perfect for promoting art classes for seniors.*



### Paintvine Event

**\$75 per person**

(canvas and paint provided)

Minimum of 10 residents required

Unleash your inner artist

No artistic ability required!

Register your interest with the Activities Team

Mobile: 021 245 1283 P: 03 351 0974 ext 8

Activities@elmswood.co.nz



**Apartment  
Waitangi Day BBQ  
Wednesday 4 February  
@ 11:30am  
Outside the Penley  
Lounge**

### Apartment Menu

Sausages  
Bread & Onions  
Potato salad  
Green salad  
Fruit



**Villa Waitangi Day BBQ  
Thursday 5 February  
@ 5pm  
Outside Community  
Centre**

### Villa Menu

2x Sausages  
(1 pork sausage  
& 1 beef South African  
Boerewors)  
Potato salad  
Green salad  
Dessert

**\$24pp & BYO Drinks**

Sign-up before 2 February  
on clipboard in the  
Community Centre or at  
Reception

Elmswood

## Pub Quiz

**Thursday 12 February  
2026**

**Colwyn Eatery  
3:00pm**



**Register your team with Reception  
before 6 February. Prizes up for grabs!**

## New Book Club – Join Us!

Love reading and great conversation?  
Come along to our new Book Club!

**Thursday 19 February**  
**3:00 pm**  
**Community Centre**



Bring along a book you're currently reading and share your thoughts, favourite moments, or recommendations with like-minded residents. Enjoy a relaxed afternoon of stories, discussion, and connection.

Afternoon tea will be provided.

Everyone welcome – no need to finish your book, just bring your love of reading!

## Elmswood Library Update

Have you looked in the library recently? More importantly have you browsed the shelves? The collection keeps changing as old books give way to 'new' books that are donated by new residents.

Thanks to the Management we have a lot more shelf space, a magazine rack, two very comfortable chairs, a storage cabinet and a notice board. The librarian has been busy getting some order to the non-fiction books, sorting and labelling them by topic or subject according to the Dewey Decimal system used by libraries the world over. It's a work-in-progress project. Though it's not finished, it's worth browsing the non-fiction books as there are some interesting books covering some interesting topics.

With help from the Management it truly looks like a library and not just a collection of books.

**David Chapple**



## Walking Group **Tuesdays** **11am**



**Meet at Bryndwr Room**  
*If it rains we will walk indoors*



## Euchre & 500's Card Games **Thursday 5 February** **2pm**

**Community Centre**  
*Afternoon tea provided*



## Upcoming Road Works Idris Road / Wairakei Road Intersection

Beginning the evening of Sunday, 1 February, the signals will be being upgraded at the Idris Road and Wairakei Road intersection. They will be working in the evenings for the first 4 nights of the project, and also during the day from Monday, 2 February 2026 through to Friday, 13 March 2026.

Sunday, 1 February 2026 to Wednesday, 4 February 2026 (nightworks):  
Traffic will be maintained through the intersection in all directions, under directions under a stop/go system.

Monday, 2 February 2026 to Friday, 13 March 2026 (day works):  
Traffic will be maintained through the intersection in all directions.

The contractor is Isaac Construction. Phone Communications Advisor on 027 314 5534, Monday to Friday, 7am to 6pm, or email [communications@isaac.co.nz](mailto:communications@isaac.co.nz).

## Onsite Works Update From Letitia

### New Website Coming Soon

Thank you to the residents who generously volunteered their time and allowed us to take their photographs for our new website.

Being a “model” does take a bit of effort, and we truly appreciate their willingness to be involved. Their participation helped ensure our website reflects real people and gives an authentic sense of what a wonderful place our village is.

We haven't seen all the final photos yet, and any residents featured will be shown the images before they go live on the website.

Thank you for helping us bring our village to life online!

### New Villa update

Exciting progress is happening at our village! Work will soon begin at 91 Wairakei Road, with temporary fencing near Villa 63. The builders will access the site from 91 Wairakei Road only, so our internal roads remain clear and safe for everyone.

On Colwyn Street, the two new villas are really taking shape. Scaffolding will come down soon, with windows and cladding being installed shortly after.

We thank you for your patience and support as we continue to grow our village—it's an exciting time for everyone!

## A Word From Our Gardener

### A New Year In The Elmswood Gardens

I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas and are ready for the new year ahead.

The gardens didn't get the memo the Elmswood gardeners were having a few days off over the Christmas and New Year period, so they kept growing - lawns and weeds included!

We managed to get all of our village hedges trimmed before Christmas and looking at some of them now, they don't look like they were trimmed. We will be getting back to re-trim them over the next few weeks.

Given the ridiculous amount of rain we've had lately our lawns haven't slowed either.

This is keeping Todd and I busy for two days a week.

Rose and weed spraying are also taking up our time - when its not windy or raining. The roses have been quite spectacular this season.

Hester is being kept busy with dead heading, weeding, tidying and everything inbetween.

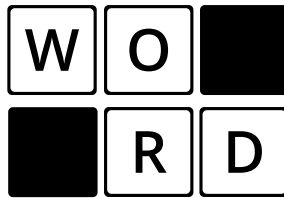
Our bedding plants around the village are looking super. The Impatiens, Begonias and Geraniums are such stars in the Summer gardens 🌞

I hope you are all managing to get out and enjoy some Summer sunshine 🌞

Sonya and the gardening team



## Puzzle Corner



### Word builder

How many words of 3 or more letters including plurals, can you make from the 5 letters below, using each letter only once? There is at least one 5 letter word.

**R A D E P**

Good - 13 Very Good - 20 Excellent - 24

### Riddles

What two things do you never eat before breakfast  
Lunch & Dinner

I am full of holes. I can hold water. What am I?  
A Sponge

What has a bed but never sleeps? What has a mouth but never eats?

A River

What kind of cheese is made backwards?  
Edam

What kind of vegetable needs a plumber?  
A Leek



Fill each row, column and square with a number 1-9 without repeating any number within the row, column or square

	4			2		8	6	5
7			6		8			
1					4	7		2
	1	8	7	4				
		5	2		9	6		
				8	6	1	5	
9		1	5					6
			8		2			7
8	7	3		6			2	

## Help Us Name Our Care Suite Lounge and Dining Room Space!

We are looking for a new name for the Care Suite lounge and dining area and would love your input.

We would like the name to include "Williams", but we are unsure what best describes the space without referring to it simply as a "room." Current suggestions include:

1. Williams Cove
2. Williams Hub
3. Williams Hide

Do you have a preference among these, or perhaps another idea you would like to suggest?

If you have a name in mind—or a word you feel better reflects this shared space—please leave your suggestion at reception.

We would really appreciate your input.