



**Hōhepa**

every life fully lived

Community  
Life

**COMING SOON**

*Our New Homes*





# From the General Manager

Home has taken on new meaning for all of us this year as not only a place to live but also perhaps a place to work, a place to be safe and a place to quite literally be the centre of our universe, known as our bubble. We noticed that many people we support thrived during Level 4, in their homes, with their flatmates, dedicated support staff and a regular routine doing the things they loved. Being home was all that many needed to feel good about their lives.

Our goal with building two new homes at Hōhepa has been to think about houses and spaces in a different way, potentially the way you are now thinking about yours. They need to be comfortable, safe and inspiring places to live for the people we support. They need to be practical, meeting the demands of different people with different support needs who may live in them. They will also be workplaces, for the staff who provide support, so those requirements have to be considered in the design and fitting choices as well.

It has been exciting to work with Wilson & Hill, in a project well managed by Cequent, to get to developed design, to be making the choices that will shape these two buildings into two homes that will work for the people living in them and the staff providing their support. We are well on track to start building in October, with some great companies getting behind us to make this a reality.

Building this momentum has been the generous support of many people and organisations getting behind us as we work towards our \$2.2 million goal. The engagement and support have been humbling.

With such great people and companies around us to make this all happen, our staff team have been able to focus on supporting every life fully lived. From the safety and comfort of their homes the people we support have been at their best – heading out to rake autumn leaves and a spot of gardening – like the Bailey sisters on our cover, creating poetry, artworks, photography and other artistic pursuits. Like us all, they have been connecting through technology. The right environment can enable each of us to be at our best.

We hope our two new homes will create two new such environments.

*Arinah Trelease*



## From the Board Chair

As I write this, we have had the most amazing Autumn, and I'm sure with getting through a lockdown at home, that all of our homes and gardens are looking much the better for it.

I'm also greatly looking forward to the Spring/Summer development of two new houses at Hōhepa. As I cross the Heathcote at the Barrington Street bridge, right smack bang in front of me, I'll begin to see Sutherland House and a new Lamar House (read more on the following pages) emerge at the entrance to Hōhepa.

There are three things that are particularly pleasing to me regarding this new development.

Firstly, it is always a challenge to raise community funds for new buildings at Hōhepa, but our efforts thus far, from individuals, trusts, and businesses has been generous, even in these difficult times – for which we are most grateful. We are hopeful that may continue for the balance of the fundraising campaign. Our dedicated capital fundraising committee have been working hard to seek out interested groups and individuals who share our vision for new homes for the people we support. The committee members include board members Nicky Wright and Craig Murphy, Hōhepa Canterbury General Manager Arnah Trelease, David and Vicki Hazlett, and Kim Smith, supported by Barrer & Co.

Secondly, campus life at Hōhepa has always centred around a home life, that has mushroomed around core buildings at Halswell and Somerfield. This has been done through a long-term strategy of acquiring existing housing around the campus. This has been extremely successful, but it has involved us converting existing housing to be suitable for our Hōhepa residents. Sometimes that works – but with these two new houses, we are going to have purpose-built houses meeting all

of our residents' needs. I'm sure it will result in everyone wanting to live in them, which is a good problem to have.

Thirdly, the drive down Barrington Street will never be the same. Hōhepa will shine – and we'll finally have two houses which will turn their eyes on the world – with a fine design, and a degree of prominence from that Barrington Street bridge. This is good prominence. It will show off the professionalism of the whole team – it will give meaning to the whole community to the important work that is done behind the sign on the street frontage.

I'm hoping that this prominence will be an important landmark to our residents – "I live at Hōhepa" will take on new meaning. It's my hope that all of Christchurch will know exactly where that person lives and the good work that is done there. I hope also that for our team, the new buildings will show a gradual improvement, that Hōhepa is not standing still, and simply coping with existing buildings – but developing to meet the living conditions, that we would all feel comfortable in.

As the project develops further, we'll be looking for contributions to dress the buildings – there is always a need for contributions to landscaping, furnishings, appliances, and flooring – so I hope that you'll all provide your support as these homes begin to develop to form the front entrance for our Barrington campus.

*Ewan Chapman*

Chair of Hōhepa Canterbury



# Fundraising for New Homes Hits Halfway!

Hōhepa's fundraising campaign towards two new homes at the Somerfield Campus has been quietly but surely progressing since it launched with a lead gift from the Sutherland Self Help Trust during Families Weekend last year.

It is with great excitement that we share with you a major fundraising milestone, with over \$1 million now donated towards the campaign! This means Hōhepa is now halfway to the total fundraising target of \$2.2 million needed to build the new homes.

The campaign has been boosted by Christchurch-based Lamar Charitable Trust, which has given an exceptionally generous \$500,000 donation to help make our vision for new, fit-for-purpose homes a reality. Lamar Trust has a long history of generous giving towards Hōhepa Canterbury, due to the alignment of the Trust's mission to support vulnerable people, including those with intellectual disabilities. Lamar House on site at the campus was named after the Trust following a previous fundraising campaign.

The main objective of the Lamar Charitable Trust is to promote the welfare and rehabilitation of disabled people, providing them with buildings and amenities along with the facilitation of any social, cultural, educational and recreational requirements. It has been proudly supporting local organisations for many years.

In order to appropriately recognise a gift of this magnitude, one of the two new houses will be named Lamar House, with the current Lamar House renamed Lamb and Marker House.

Lamb and Marker are the two surnames of the married couple, Daisy Lamb and Albert Marker QSM, who established the Lamar Trust in the mid 1970's. Daisy's father William Lamb was one of the original founders of Lamb & Hayward funeral directors and Albert was Lamb & Hayward's General Manager for over 50 years.

Current Lamar Trust Chair, Brent Smith, says the Trust's mission was founded in humility. "Albert and Daisy's connection to the funeral industry fostered a certain humility, with frequent exposure



to heartbreak certainly making for an appreciation of life. This humility is what fostered the initial creation of the Lamar Charitable Trust and its objective to support the vulnerable members of society living with disability."

The donation to Hōhepa Canterbury is the largest single amount the Lamar Trust has ever given. Brent says the Trust felt the timing and the cause was right for Lamar to support the project with a truly significant gift.

"All the trustees are dedicated to the inspiring and ongoing vision of supporting those who are challenged by disability. We're committed to upholding its original founders' vision, to support those with disabilities to live the most rewarding life possible within the community."

General Manager of Hōhepa Canterbury, Arnah Trelease says, "This campaign is special, there's something about the nature of the cause that people are responding to and seeing the value in supporting these members of our community to live their best lives. These new homes will enable



*Brent Smith, Chair of the Lamar Charitable Trust*

us to welcome 12 more people into our community. We are incredibly grateful for this support of our amazing community."

We'll be sharing more news about the fundraising campaign for these important new homes throughout the rest of the year.

If you would like to learn more or can assist in any way with this important project, please contact Arnah Trelease on 027 801 9034 or [arnah.trelease@hohepacanterbury.com](mailto:arnah.trelease@hohepacanterbury.com).



*Architecture firm Wilson & Hill's depiction of what the new Lamar House will look like once built.*



## STORIES FROM OUR

# Hohepa Homes

*In this issue of Community Life, we catch up with Anna Freeman and John Pike to find out about what home life was like for them in their mirumiru (bubbles) during COVID-19 Alert Levels 1-4.*

## John Pike

Like many people, John has been looking forward to being out of lockdown and able to get back to work. A self-described “working man,” John usually takes the bus from Hohepa on Monday and Friday to his job as a cleaner at Lighthouse Brewing Company. The things John enjoys best about his job are vacuuming and being social – and after-work Friday beers! He says he has a great relationship with his boss Daniel and the rest of the team.

John’s parents Roger and Ann-Marie live in a retirement village in Christchurch and although they couldn’t come and visit John during lockdown, he spoke with them on the phone and they gave him a wave from the gate on ANZAC Day. John and his flatmates were up at dawn to show their respects, with John particularly honouring his Uncle Jack, who fought in World War II. One of the neighbours played the Last Post on the bugle which was really moving.

All the flatmates have been keeping busy during lockdown at their house. John says he has pride in his place and he has been undertaking maintenance in the house and the backyard, including raking leaves and mowing the lawns, to keep things looking ship-shape.

John and his flatmates Shaun Collings, Blair Steel, and Michael Stanley are all musical, with John on the drums, Blair on harmonica and Michael on the keyboard. Together they are The Robson House Band. Support worker Amelia says they had many heart-warming music sessions during lockdown – “having a band in your bubble is so cool!”

John has good rhythm and Blair has perfect pitch. All three harmonise together and make up their music on the spot, with each naturally taking turns to lead the flow of the music. They have a music room behind the garage where they play. The band have performed publicly on a number of occasions, including at Families Weekend.

According to Amelia, the flatmates are all “genuine mates”, and look out for each other. “If anyone needs anything, John can tell. He watches out and makes sure everyone is ok,” says Amelia. “They have lots of laughs – barrels of laughs, as they are all such funny guys.”

In his usual routine, John enjoys being responsible for making sure things are in good order at the end of the day. He’s always the last one to leave day activities and checks to make sure no bags or people are left behind. He does the same at home, checking all the doors and windows before turning in for the night.

John says he’s looking forward to getting back to the normal routine after the COVID-19 situation has passed. He’s been missing the social time with the wider Hohepa community. He particularly misses model train making at Skillwise.

He says the flat have all been enjoying nice meals at home, and he has his usual black coffee every morning to get the day started. Another way the flatmates have been keeping occupied is by playing basketball in the driveway, with John making sure the ball is kept pumped and primed ready for the next round of Robson House fun!



## Anna Freeman

The first part of Anna's lockdown experience was spent visiting her family in Wanaka, where she enjoyed walking by the lake, dancing, doing puzzles and eating pizza.

However, she missed Hōhepa and seeing her flatmates Mark, William and Barry so much she asked most days to ask when she could come back home. She also missed her favourite doll, May, and her unicorn slippers.

It was a frustrating time with the situation changing day by day as to when she could return. The flat all learned how to use video chat to catch up with friends and family, and of course Anna video called her flatmates most days to check in how everyone was doing. They loved seeing her and it helped Anna feel less homesick.

Anna was so excited when she could finally travel home to her flat, but there was one more challenge to overcome – a COVID-19 test! As a precautionary measure, Anna undertook the test on her return to Christchurch. According to her support person Cherry, Anna "took it like a champ", with Anna saying that "it tickled" when they tested her! She got the all clear with a negative result, but for a few days before it came back she had to self-isolate in her bedroom in the flat away from the others, which was hard. Staff wore PPE to go in her room, just in case. Luckily Anna has her own en suite in Rata House so she was able to self-isolate easily.

Barry was so happy to have Anna back that he left her a beautiful flower arrangement in her room to welcome her home. Cherry says Anna's flatmates all missed Anna because "she brings an energy into the house". The flatmates waited for Anna to be back home before they celebrated a belated Easter, with yummy pancakes topped with berries. Anna received a Matilda-themed Easter egg and ate it all in one sitting. She then had to go to bed after so much excitement!

Anna is a friendly and social person and says the thing she missed the most during lockdown was "meeting people and saying hi". She loves to grow her social circle and see people out in the community. On Saturdays she usually goes to South Library, where she likes to read books with other library-goers. Another activity Anna enjoys is going out to Cafes with her friends. "I like to go out and have hot chocolate," she says. Her favourites include Coffee Culture, Zeroes Coffee and the Cat Nap Café.

Anna also missed seeing her other friends and the LEAP programme, which has been adapted in line with the COVID-19 levels to include five key



'mirumirum (bubbles) to support those with similar needs at separate times and locations during the day.

All of Anna's flatmates adjusted to lockdown very well, keeping happy and busy with activities and learning. Each day the flat has had a set routine, with part of Anna's duties to unload the dishwasher each day. She takes this responsibility seriously and enjoys doing her part in the household. The flatmates all enjoy reading and browsing YouTube. Colette from the LEAP staff kept everyone learning and engaged with craft, mask making and flax weaving, while William spent time on the vegetable garden and Barry made a Phantom of the Opera mask based on his favourite movie.

Anna is the fastest walker – she says it's because her parents are fit and she did lots of walking with them in Wanaka. In their bubble, the flatmates went on a walk to visit the geese at Westlake, followed by baking. Anna jokes they made a "quack flavour" cake (actually a carrot cake!). They all did chalk drawings, including a C-themed 'happy birthday' drawing for LEAP coordinator Colette, which Anna cheekily crossed out and replaced with 'Cherry' when Cherry's birthday came round!

The flat has lots of laughs and good times together – well done Anna and Rata House!







# Hōhepa

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