

▪ **Word from Jacquie**

Although the weather is holding out, we are mindful of our residents still being susceptible to chest infections, so our outdoor activities have been limited. There has however not been a lack of entertainers and things to do.

The Alzheimer's conference was well worth the wait and I have come back from Wellington all fired up to make big changes especially for the families coping at home living with dementia.

The speakers were fabulous and I sensed that the more support people and families get when living with Alzheimer's the more they can cope at home. The interesting thing was that the carer's that spoke in some cases left it very late to ask for help but it was also evident that when first diagnosed the doctor may not be giving the advice sorely needed to get this help. To be guided in the right direction from the start and to have the courage to accept the advice by people who know, is the first step in coping.



**Decima and Alf Gent**

**Staff**

All our staff were tested by a physiotherapist on their skills and knowledge on lifting and turning residents. They all passed and I am delighted that the comment she made was that they all had lovely natures and were kind and considerate.

For those of you that don't know, Shirley Harris's resignation was short lived and she found herself back here, we are delighted to welcome her back.

Our new Accountant is Judy Preece and we warmly welcome her to BriarGate.

The rest of our staff doesn't change thank goodness but we do have a few casual workers. Please do introduce yourselves to them so they know who you are and who you are visiting.



**Sera our new Laundry Lady**

Please feel free to go down to the laundry and introduce yourself to Sera. She will be happy to meet you.

**Birthday Celebrations**  
**April and May 2007**

Happy Birthday to all our residents (permanent and day-care) of BriarGate who have celebrated or will celebrate a birthday during the months of April and May 2007:



**29/04/07 - Ena Inglis**  
**30/04/07 - Mervin Probine**  
**21/05/07 - Mary Mooney**  
**31/05/07 - Phyllis Aberhart**

**Welcome to our New Residents**

A very warm welcome to our new residents at BriarGate who are:

Dianne Clark and family  
Sydney Crichton and family  
Edward Mills and family

**Fond Goodbyes to:**

David Nelson a long standing resident at BriarGate who has left our shores for life in the fast lane. David has relocated to a Glenfield rest home.

Also to Phyllis Aberhart who has left BriarGate to live at a hospital care facility in Auckland.

**And Lastly**

Our condolences to the family of Joyce Ferguson who passed away very peacefully on 5<sup>th</sup> May at aged 90.

Thank you to Jane and her family for their kindness and lending Joyce to us for the short time she spent at BriarGate. God bless you Joyce

### Activities and Entertainment

Activities are such an important part of the daily routine at Briargate so it is really important we know the life styles our residents led, whether they were accountants, engineers, dress makers we need to know so we can incorporate relevant activities stimulating the brain is so important.



Dealing with challenging behaviour on a regular basis can be difficult, identifying why problems occur and changing the way we behave towards a person can make things easier. We can never assume that we know our Residents, always the families know them best, that it why it is vital families have as much input into their care as possible.

We keep Briargate as family orientated as possible and it is so nice to see so many visitors come and have a chat. Positive and negative comments all help in our assuring quality care of your family member.

If things are really worrying you please talk to us we want to know.

For the families and spouses that are finding it difficult to be on their own, try joining a club or going to the Alzheimer's groups, or you can just come visit or phone us and have chat.



**Our star resident dog Holly  
(She belongs to Jacquie Hodge)**

### Joke

One day Johnny was digging a hole in his garden. The neighbour spotted him and decided to investigate.

“Hello Johnny, what are you up to?” he asked. “My goldfish died and I’m going to bury him,” Johnny replied.

“That’s a really big hole for a goldfish, isn’t it?” asked the neighbour. “That’s because he’s inside your cat!”

### Maintenance

The Carpet in the Hallways is to be replaced from week commencing Monday 28<sup>th</sup> May 2007. There will be some minor disruption so please be careful when walking around BriarGate.



**Ed Mitchell who collects our day cares  
Also Our Maintenance Person  
(He’s da Man)**

### Quotation for this Month

A day will never be anymore than  
what you make of it.

**Until the next newsletter keep well and take care.  
Jacquie, Pam and all the Staff at Briargate**

### Family Survey

Enclosed with this newsletter is a family survey which we would appreciate your completing and sending back us here at BriarGate.