



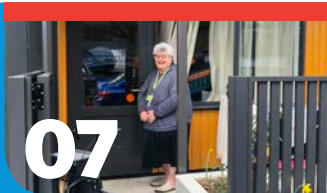
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Close to Home

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Auckland tenant Lizzy turns 100!



Lizzy's 100th birthday banana cake.

A very special day dawned recently for New Lynn tenant Elizabeth (Lizzy), who turned 100 in November.

Lizzy has lived in a Housing New Zealand complex in West Auckland for close to 20 years.

Housing and Urban Development Minister Phil Twyford visited Lizzy to congratulate her, and said he had a big surprise for her.

"Your local New Lynn MP, Deborah Russell, and I have arranged for your 100th birthday to be formally acknowledged in the New Zealand Parliament," Minister Twyford told her.



Lizzy with her Tenancy Manager Jared and The Breeze FM's Robert and Jeanette.

Lizzy was blown away. "How absolutely wonderful. Thank you so much," said Lizzy, who puts her long life down to keeping positive and active.

She says planning for her 100th birthday started last year when she turned 99. "I've already had a big party with all my bingo friends and I'll be celebrating all weekend with family and friends."

Banana cake was enjoyed by all. Lizzy is a big fan of bananas and says she has eaten many hundreds over her lifetime.

Recently she also took to the airwaves with The Breeze FM's Robert and Jeanette. Lizzy sang a favourite song,

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Happy holiday

Together with everyone at Housing New Zealand, I would like to wish you all a happy holiday season.

We're looking forward to 2019 and the chance to house and support more Kiwis.

This is why we are here. We know it's not just a house, it's a home, a warm, dry, safe place for people to live their lives and in some cases rebuild them.

In 2019 we are committed to being a great landlord and finding new and better ways to deliver the best possible service and support to the people we house.

I hope you all have a good holiday season, enjoying time with family and friends. Keep safe on the roads if you are travelling.

Ngā mihi,

Paul Commons
Chief Operating Officer

Housing New Zealand
Housing New Zealand Corporation





We're excited to share some amazing stories from our tenants, staff and communities across the country, as well as some of the familiar content you have read about in Close to Home.

It allows us not just to tell everyone what we're doing, but to show it too! So if you use Facebook, like our page, and see what we're up to.

www.facebook.com/housingnewzealand

They call it puppy love

Life has been great since Housing New Zealand tenant Lyn got her pet dog, Laila.

Lyn has stopped smoking and, thanks to having Laila's love and companionship, she is making friends and feeling less lonely.

"I used to feel very lonely and was addicted to tobacco, but since having Laila I haven't smoked in eight months. She keeps me busy!"

Laila, who is a Lowchen crossed with a Sydney Silky, was gifted to Lyn by her daughter during a trip to Dargaville.

The impact Laila has had on Lyn's life has been huge.

"Having her means so much to me. She brings so much joy to my life and I just love her to bits."

Lyn thinks the new Housing New Zealand pets policy is awesome as it gives tenants like her, who are older and living alone, the chance to experience the joy of having a dog.

"When I didn't have a dog I didn't know what I was missing. Now I take her on walks and people chat to me and they want to pat her; it's wonderful."

Having Laila has also brought Lyn and her neighbour closer together.

"In the beginning, my neighbour wasn't happy with all the barking, but she now comes over most days and gives Laila kisses and hugs. It's changed her, it's changed me and now my neighbour is thinking about getting a dog too."



Lyn with her pet dog, Laila.



Laila - a Lowchen crossed with a Sydney Silky.

Lyn says if tenants are looking at getting a dog, they need to know that the first six months can be expensive.

"There is de-sexing, registration, vaccinations and microchipping, and you need to buy them good food to keep them healthy."

She advises tenants to talk to their local vet or the SPCA as de-sexing for pets is often subsidised.

"It's worth looking into as it can save you a lot of money and it's good for your pet too."

Beat the heat - keeping pets safe during the hot summer months

Take care when exercising your pet

Exercise them when it's not so hot, so in the early morning or the evening.

Avoid long walks on sunny days. Take your pets to an area that has grass and is shady and cool - if they only want a short walk or want to lie down, let them.

You should have fresh water available for your pet all year round, but it's even more important when it's hot outside.

Hot cars can kill

Please don't leave your dog unattended in a car at any time of the day. If the purpose of your trip is not to take your dog somewhere, please leave your dog at home.

Beware of sunburn

Just like people, animals can also suffer from sunburn - use pet-friendly sunscreen to rub on the tips of their ears, on the end of their nose and on their stomach.

Remember the 3 second rule

Remember if the pavement is too hot for you, it's too hot for your pet. Check it's safe by holding the back of your hand to the pavement for 3 seconds - if it's too hot for you to keep your hand there, it's too hot for them to walk on.

Shade is essential for all animals

Whatever animal you have, they all need to have good shelter that protects them from the sun's harsh rays.





- If summer is playing the game, it should be hot and dry this month so keep up the watering. In the cool of the morning and as the sun is going down are the most effective times to water, and remember to water the roots - not the leaves.

- Thin carrots and use rejects in salads. Keep planting more lettuce seedlings as you harvest to keep the summer salad supply going. The cut-and-come-again lettuce varieties are the best.
- When harvesting tomatoes, keep removing laterals and removing bottom leaves to help air circulate.

- Sow seeds like broccoli and cabbage for autumn/winter crops. Keep seeds moist and out of the hot sun while germinating, then transplant to the garden once the seedlings have grown about 10cm.

Remaking and giving back



The ReMakery's experienced sewer Linda.

Wellington-based charity The Common Unity Project Aotearoa has helped a Housing New Zealand tenant find purpose and use her skills in a sustainable way.

Based in Fairfield, Lower Hutt, The ReMakery, run by the charity, offers people a place to share knowledge and skills.

Housing New Zealand tenant Linda is a volunteer at The ReMakery. She says the project has given her friends and a reason to get off the couch every day.

"I've smiled more here than I have in the past 10 years."

An experienced sewer, Linda re-purposes old fabrics at The ReMakery and turns textiles into handbags, reusable lunch bags and the charity's famous Shirty Shoppers.

"Before I came here I was so depressed. I sat on the couch and knitted 100 jumpers. But when I found this place,

I had a reason to get out. I just love it here; it's what I do now."

The Common Unity Project Aotearoa's Project Coordinator, Julia, says the charity's success depends on its people and the value of helping each other.

Housing New Zealand Hutt Valley Area Manager Alice agrees and says community groups like these are crucial when building vibrant, healthy communities.

"The support and sense of purpose The Common Unity Project Aotearoa gives our tenants are truly life changing, not just for them but also for their whānau.

"We want our tenants and their whānau to live well in our homes and a key part of this is enabling and fostering connectedness with their local community. So we work very hard to encourage our tenants and put them in touch with groups or services that can help them."

Safety and sausages bring out community

Residents of Panama Road and surrounding Mt Wellington streets used a Community Safety Day, on 17 November, to meet up, have fun and learn about keeping safe.

This event was organised by Housing New Zealand's Community Development team, Panama Road School and Good Seeds Trust from the local community centre.

Families enjoyed free food and got involved in activities like safely evacuating your home if there is a fire, construction site safety, being safe around dogs, road safety, learning CPR and much more.

Community Development Manager Rhiannon says the event was a great success.

"It was a wonderful example of local groups and agencies coming together to facilitate a fun family event on the theme of safety, which is a concern for many.

"Events like this are an opportunity to support members of our community, helping people to build connections and relationships and feel safer."

We look forward to continuing to work with other organisations and groups in the area to support our communities to feel connected.

Special thanks to Animates, Auckland Transport, Brake, Buildtech, Fire and Emergency NZ, Good Seed Trust and Supergrans, Kids Safe with Dogs, Panama Road School, Police, St John Ambulance, Violence Free Communities, Water Safety NZ, and the Panama Road Community!





- Leafy green plants will appreciate a feed of compost tea or liquid blood and bone.
- Leave the best plants to grow and set seed. Harvest them on a dry day and store in a cool place to plant next year.
- Now is the time to plant the winter garden. Plant seedlings of cabbage, cauliflower, Brussels sprouts, celery, silverbeet, spinach and leeks. Keep seedlings well watered and protected from the sun.

Housing New Zealand will become part of the new Housing and Urban Development Authority (HUDA)

Housing New Zealand will join HLC and KiwiBuild to form a new organisation, the Housing and Urban Development Authority (HUDA).

Nothing changes for you, as a Housing New Zealand tenant, and our public housing objectives will be protected under HUDA.

HUDA is about making sure individuals, whānau and families have healthy, secure and affordable homes and communities that meet their needs.

If you have any questions about HUDA you can contact our call centre or visit www.huda.govt.nz

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Auckland tenant Lizzy turns 100!

shared her tips for a long life, and enjoyed the freshly baked banana cake Robert and Jeanette had brought along after hearing about Lizzy's fondness for bananas!

Lizzy with Phil Twyford, Minister of Housing and Urban Development.



Opening cupboards to the community



Plentiful stock outside the pātaka.

Understanding the daily struggle many families face to put food on the table has prompted a Housing New Zealand tenant, Diana, to open her own cupboards to help feed the local community.

"The idea for the pātaka (or pantry) came from my daughter, who had seen something similar and thought it would be a great idea for our community," says Diana.

"We have people dropping off all sorts of food and household items."

Diana often reaches into her own cupboard to stock the pātaka and makes up to 25 school lunches every Monday to give out to kids.

"Weekends are a struggle for many families and come Monday there isn't much food left. This means some kids don't go to school on a Monday as they have no lunch."

When it comes to donations, Diana only asks that people give what they can, as it all helps.

"I'm really thankful for the people in my community who donate, especially local New World owner Eric, who has gifted so much food to feed this community."

The fruit and vegetable donations are especially welcome, says Diana, as they are often too expensive for struggling families to buy.

"I put these in baskets on the fence and it's great to see kids grab some fruit on their way to and from school."

When asked what the most requested food item is, Diana says milk powder is always number one for the kids.

"It's not surprising – all kids just want to be able to have their cereal in the morning and a nice hot drink."

To donate to Diana's pātaka, the best way is to purchase items through Countdown or New World's online shopping websites, and enter the delivery address: 34 William Jones Drive, Ōtangarei.



Safekids Aotearoa suggests three things you can do to make driveways and other places safer for children:

- 1 Check for children before driving off.
- 2 Always supervise children around vehicles.
- 3 Separate play areas from driveways.

Celebrating significant milestones



Tenancy Manager Sheryl with New Plymouth tenant Peggy in the garden.

Area Manager Raewyn agrees there must be something in the water in her region – within a matter of weeks two tenants in their nineties celebrated milestones.

A Cambridge tenant in her 90’s recently celebrated more than 50 years as a tenant.

And in July New Plymouth tenant Margaret (Peggy) celebrated her 95th birthday with family and friends.

Tenancy Manager Sheryl says Peggy has been a Housing New Zealand tenant since 1988. A change of circumstances in her sixties left Peggy needing a home and Housing New Zealand was able to provide one for her.

Peggy says life in Cook Street, New Plymouth, was full of surprises and fondly recalls

a strong sense of community and bond between neighbours.

“We all got on really well and shared fresh vegetables and flowers from our gardens and enjoyed delicious home baking,” Peggy says.

Peggy moved to her current home three years ago when the Cook Street house and section became too much for her to look after.

“Whenever I visit Peggy she greets me with a beaming smile, and the house and garden are always immaculate,” Sheryl says.

Peggy has a passion for gardening and is a past and very proud winner of two Housing New Zealand Garden Awards. So it was fitting that Sheryl presented her with a big bunch of flowers for her special birthday.

Congratulations Peggy on your 95th birthday.

Are you feeling out-of-sorts or depressed?

NEED TO TALK?



free call or text any time for support from a trained counsellor

Are you feeling anxious or just need someone to talk to? Or advice on mental health or addictions issues?

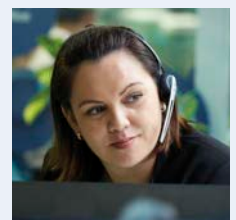
Whatever it is, you can call or text **1737** any time. It’s free, completely confidential and is an independent service. Housing New Zealand won’t know if you make contact.

“1737 is for all Kiwis who need some support. It’s really easy to send us a text and you can remain anonymous,” says Mel, one of the 1737 team.

“I have often helped people who are feeling overwhelmed, with everything getting on top of them. Often people don’t want to worry their friends or family, or they don’t have someone around that they feel they can talk to. If they have feelings of anxiety, we’re able to chat with them, help them manage now, and put them in touch with other services, if that’s right for them. Sometimes it’s just sending that first text or making that first call that can make such a difference,” says Mel.

1737 is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. It could be really helpful for you or your whānau.

Free call or text 1737 to talk to someone like Mel.



06

Did you know?

The largest functional Christmas cracker was **45.72 metres long** and 3.04 metres around. It was made in Australia, and was pulled in the car park of the Westfield Shopping Town in Chatswood, Sydney, on 9 November 1991.



There are three towns in America named **Santa Claus** - one in Georgia, one in Arizona and one in Indiana.



Roast Potatoes



The best roast potatoes are **crispy, golden, and sticky on the outside and fluffy inside. Drippings from a roast, chicken in particular, make great roast spuds. Otherwise it's fine to use a combination of oil and butter.**

YOU WILL NEED:

Agria potatoes

A couple of tablespoons of oil and 1-2 tablespoons butter

Salt

Preheat the oven to 200°C.

Peel the potatoes and cut into biggish, even-sized pieces. Place them into a large pot of cold water, add a pinch of salt and bring to the boil.

Boil for 2-3 minutes then drain.

Return the pot of potatoes to the heat to dry out, shaking the pot to rough up the sides of the potatoes, to make a crispier finish. Sprinkle lightly with salt.

Put the oil and butter into a large, shallow roasting pan in the oven to heat. Carefully tip the potatoes into the hot pan and coat them in the hot fat.

Bake the spuds, turning occasionally till crisp and golden. If you're cooking a joint of meat, put the spuds in with it, then when the meat is cooked remove it from the oven to rest, crank the temperature up high and give the spuds a blast for 15 minutes or so while the meat rests.

Almond Joy Fudge



Almond Joy Fudge is **quick and easy to make (it's ready in 15 minutes plus cooling), and makes a good gift.**

YOU WILL NEED:

250g dark chocolate

1 can sweetened condensed milk

60g butter

70g packet whole blanched almonds, coarsely chopped

1 1/3 cups desiccated coconut

Line a 20cm square tin with baking paper.

Place a large bowl over a saucepan of gently simmering water, making sure it doesn't touch the water. Break the chocolate into the bowl

and when it begins to melt, remove from the heat and stir until completely melted.

While the chocolate is melting, place the condensed milk and butter in a small saucepan, heat gently, stirring until the butter is melted; remove from the heat. Add the butter, condensed milk and almonds to the chocolate, then add 1 cup of the coconut and fold together. Pour the mixture into the prepared tin, smooth the top and scatter on the remaining coconut. Chill until firmly set.

When set remove from the pan and cut into squares.

Thanks to [Sophie Gray](#) for providing these recipes - www.destitutegourmet.com





- Plant seedlings of beetroot, broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cauliflower, spinach and silverbeet.
- Sow seeds of carrots, parsnips, radish, lettuce, spinach, silverbeet, beetroot (mild climates only), swede and turnip directly into the garden.

- Seeds of broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower and Brussels sprouts are best sown in trays for planting out later.
- Plant herbs in pots or the garden. Parsley can be grown from seed and sown now. Perennial herbs such as chives, mint, thyme,

rosemary, sage and marjoram can be divided and replanted.

- Plant daffodils, tulips, irises and freesias in the garden or in containers. Spray your roses to help control pests and diseases.

A place to call home this Christmas

A place to call home, a place to cook a meal and a place to belong to is something Housing New Zealand tenant Trish is looking forward to this Christmas.

This time last year Trish was living in emergency accommodation after being made homeless. Christmas was spent in a motel room, with a two-hob hotplate for cooking facilities and a mini fridge just large enough to hold the basic essentials but not the traditional Christmas fare.

"As an adult you never forget your childhood memories of Christmas, and the reflection is often about the home, being around your mum, your dad, your grandparents and other family. Returning home to see and embrace everyone, laughter, disagreements and forgiveness, being at home to celebrate with family and friends are what Christmas is about.

"When you're living in a motel, out of a carry-on suitcase and cooking on a hob, it's not the same. You feel displaced and the reality of being homeless becomes more ingrained than ever before," says Trish.

But in October this year she got the call she had been hoping for. Housing New Zealand had secured her a new home in the Te Maru o Tawatawa development in Britomart Street, in the Wellington suburb of Berhampore.

"The call when it came was so unexpected and Teupe (Placement Manager) said to me, 'Are you sitting down? I've got some news for you; we're going to offer you a home.'

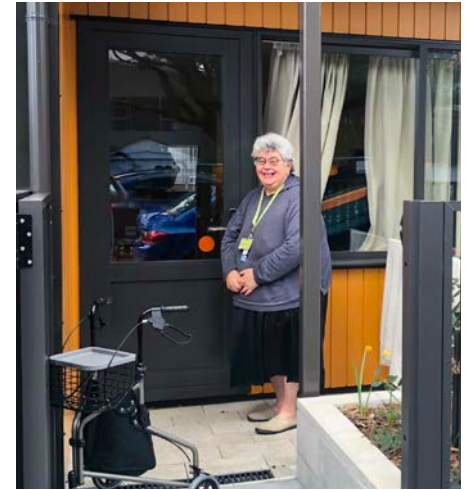
"I took a deep breath and then she said, 'It's in the new Britomart complex, on the ground floor and it meets all your needs.' There was a moment of silence before Teupe asked me if I was still on the phone. She didn't realise I was crying, I was just so happy and grateful to Housing New Zealand. They had always been my hope, more so as 'fit-for-purpose' accommodation for disabled people is hard to come by and Housing New Zealand was the best Christmas wish ever after a long 12 months of patiently waiting," says Trish.

Trish, who is partially disabled and needs a walker to get around, asked Housing New Zealand to consider her for a ground floor unit so she could manage her independence better.

"The best part was that I had been listened to and Housing New Zealand understood how important this was for me.

"When I first saw my home it felt like a dream. When Rebecca (Tenancy Manager) handed me the keys and I signed the tenancy agreement I was like 'yes, this is finally happening'. When my support worker and I walked inside my new home, I went and looked at every single bit of the unit, touching the cabinetry and most of all hugging the oven, I was like 'wow; I have a kitchen and an oven - an oven!' When you've been living in emergency housing and a motel and not having a full size oven or a proper size fridge then to suddenly have these things is the most wonderful thing."

The joy of her new home did not even stop Trish, who is studying for a bachelors degree in Political Science



Trish outside her new home.

and Public Policy, from moving a week before her exams.

"My classmates and lecturers were speechless that I was moving home right before exams, but I just knew I wanted to make this happen as I had been looking forward to this for such a long time. And even with the upheaval of the move I scored 82 percent on one of my exam papers. This was because I knew I had a home."

Trish says now that she is settled in her home she is starting to connect with her local community and meet her neighbours.

"We've started a coffee group and meeting with my neighbours each week is something I really look forward to. We all have our stories, we all have our issues, but we feel settled now and the people living here want to get involved in their community and give back.

"I never thought I would end up here; I never thought I would need government assistance to live. Having support to access social housing meant I could have a quality of life equal to all New Zealand citizens. I can now carry on with my studies, and I can live with dignity."





- Harvest late summer vegetables – pumpkins, marrows, potatoes, onions. Store in a cool, dry place.
- Sow seeds of beetroot, broccoli, broad beans, cabbage, carrots, onions, radish, spinach, swedes and turnips.
- Transplant seedlings of broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cabbage,

- cauliflower, celery, leeks, lettuce, silverbeet and spinach.
- Plant potatoes in frost-free areas.
- Plant parsley and perennial herbs.
- April is the time to tidy up the summer flowering annuals.
- It's also a good time for planting trees and shrubs.

- Deadhead roses as autumn flowers finish. Plan new rose plantings and give existing roses a side dressing of fertiliser.
- Mulch all trees, shrubs and roses.
- This is the best month for sowing new lawns and rejuvenating existing ones.

Bloomin' marvellous



Yola in her beautiful garden.

Yola's love of gardening, which is a "God-given gift", is matched by the joy her flowers give neighbours and passers-by.

Besides the beauty, the greenery is also a vehicle for the 93-year-old to demonstrate her community spirit and giving nature.

"It gives me pleasure because it's giving other people pleasure. Not a person doesn't stop by to look at the garden," says Yola.

Yola will also ask neighbours if they know anyone who's having a birthday, so they can take some flowers home, "so no one goes home empty-handed".

When she moved into her home in February this year, the section was a blank canvas for Yola to lay out her mini-botanical garden.

Many of her roses were transplanted from her previous rental in Lower Hutt, where she had lived for 40 years

before the owner ended her tenancy in late 2017 so they could sell it.

Yola said having to move was heartbreaking, but she was put in touch with Housing New Zealand, who quickly found her a new place. She is very happy with her new home, which she treats "like my very own home".

The efforts of the local team have also impressed Yola.

"They've been marvellous and wonderfully kind. I've been treated beautifully by Housing New Zealand."

To say Yola is a green thumb is understating it. She's been a member of the Lower Hutt Horticultural Society for 45 years, and a life member since 2009, and has received many commendations for her gardening.

Yola and her late husband, Tom, also spent 25 years making 'hundreds' of beautiful wreaths with their flowers for the Returned and Services Association and Anzac Day commemorations.

Each wreath took at least two weeks to create, and Yola was still making them at 83, "in honour of those who gave their life".

Besides beautifying the property, Yola has made a positive change for those living around her.

As for her favourite rose, it's a Faithful Friend – "it's what I try to be".

Our opening hours over the holiday period

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Other than that our service remains the same.

- Non-urgent calls between 8am and 6pm weekdays only.
- Urgent calls 24 hours, 7 days a week.
- Local offices open for drop-in between 9am and 4pm weekdays only.

Email enquiries1@hnzc.co.nz

Thanks to:

safekids
Aotearoa

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