

**MONTECILLO NEWSLETTER**  
**September – December 2024**  
**Issue 42**

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**Montecillo Veterans Home & Hospital**  
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Kia ora,

My name is Anita Perkins.

I have spent most of my life in Dunedin. I was raised in Macandrew Bay on the peninsula and went to Queens High School. I am married to my husband, Chris, and we have two teenage children James and Talia. We enjoy exploring the outdoors, tramping, camping and holidaying in Central Otago, Riverton and the McKenzie country. I also love to cook, garden and spend time with friends and family.



I'm thrilled to join the Montecillo team as an activity coordinator and have received a very warm and heartfelt welcome. I have 6 years experience working in aged care in both carer and activities roles. I have a bachelor's degree in occupational therapy and find working in aged care incredibly rewarding and fun.

A special 'thank you' to Angel, Brigitte & Jane for your lovely welcome and orientation. I am really looking forward to working alongside Angel to create lots of enjoyable and exciting activities as well as make the most of the spring and summer months for some lovely excursions.

Montecillo has a wonderful reputation in Dunedin and is steeped in history and mana. I have been impressed at how friendly and skilled the staff are and have been very heartened to meet the wonderful, committed team of volunteers.

During the first couple of weeks, I have really enjoyed getting to know the Montecillo residents, hearing your stories, learning about your lives and meeting the families. I look forward to spending more time with each of you as I continue to settle into the activities role.

If you ever want to reach out to me, please don't hesitate. I consider myself to be very approachable and happy to hear your ideas. I intend on creating meaningful opportunities for all residents at Montecillo and feel very privileged to be able to do so.

Mauri tu, mauri ora (an active soul is a healthy soul).

Sincerely,

Anita Perkins



## Halloween was a lot of Fun



Marjorie won the best dressed resident.  
Fe won the best dressed staff member.





# Giant Scrabble Board (made by Angel)

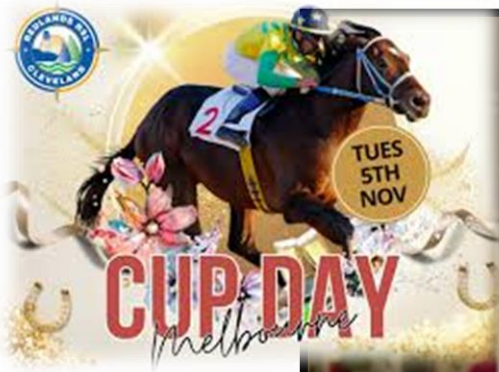




Congratulations  
Lynley – 5<sup>th</sup> place  
In Sweet Adelines  
International  
Singing Competition  
Held in Kansas, USA





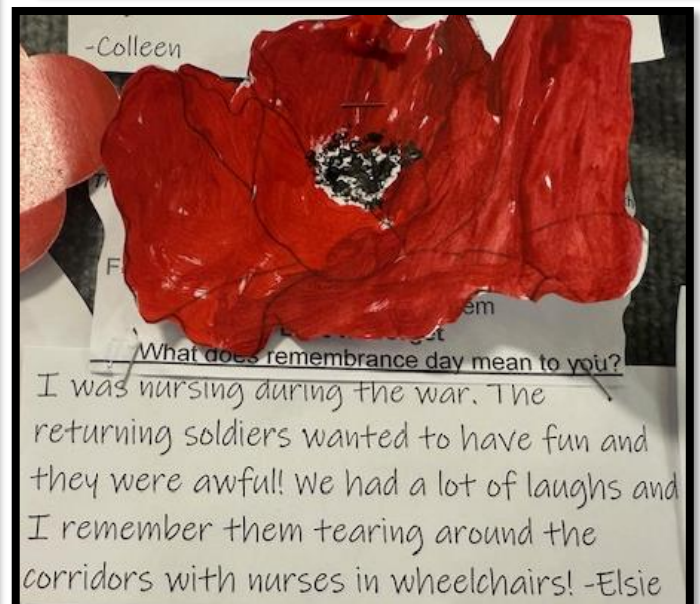
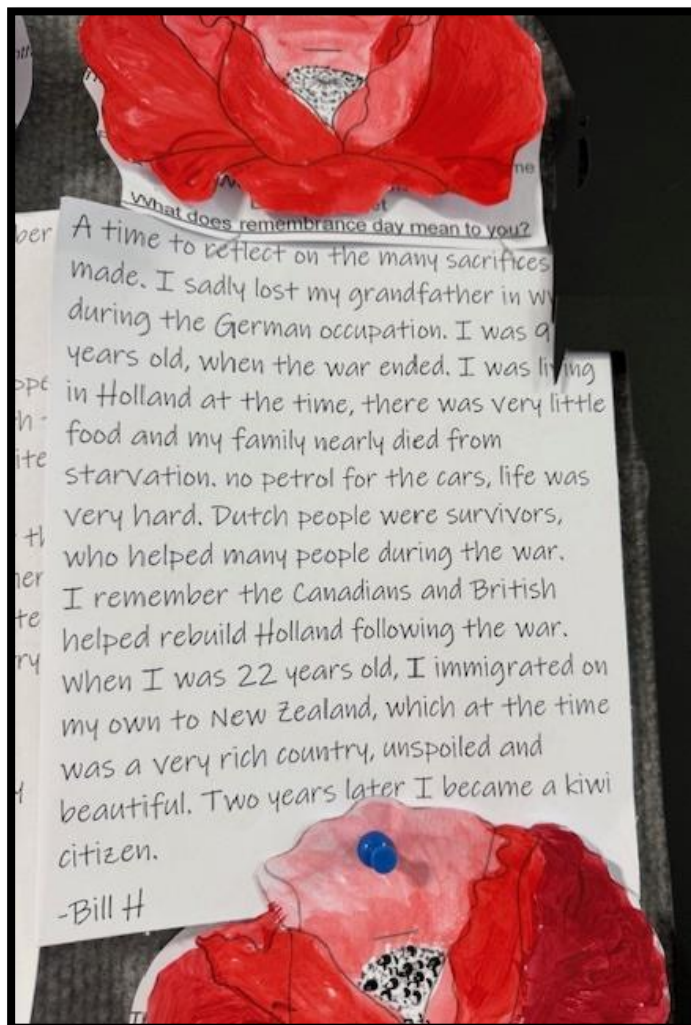
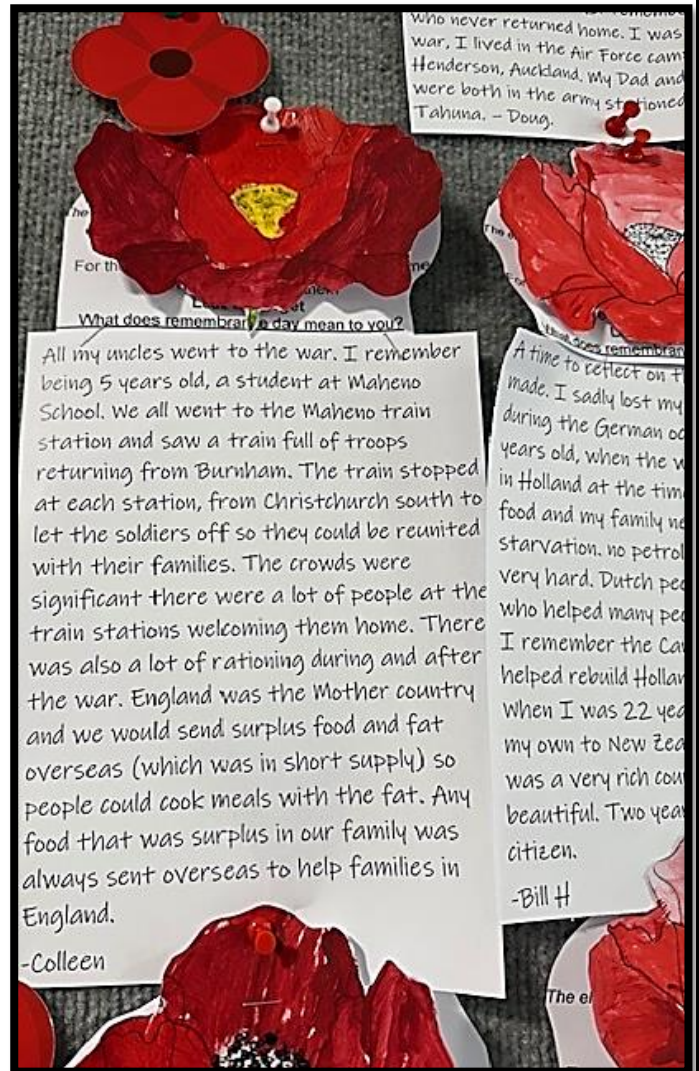


A super fun day had by all. A couple of syndicates were run for residents and staff, many games themed on horse racing, and we got dressed up in fascinators and hats. The fine china tea sets came out for a high tea. Finished by Happy hour, watching the televised race.





# Remembrance Day 11.11.2024











**Guests Invited in for Midday Dinner**

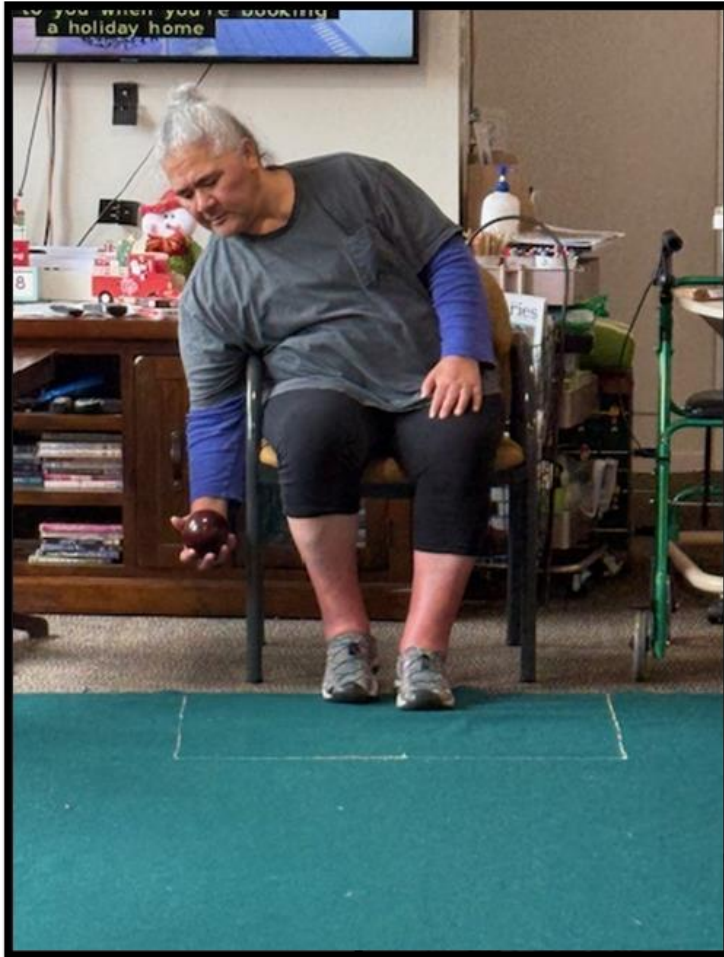
Roger McElwain – Montecillo  
 Jen Glover – Montecillo  
 Kevin Weir --- RSA President  
 Sue Weir  
 Lieutenant Pete Gee,  
 RNZNR - Armistice Day  
 planner  
 Flight Lieutenant (Flt Lt) Kieran D’Lima. – UK  
 Representative at Armistice Day Service  
 Lt Col (Retd) Christopher Pugsley & wife Dee -  
 Guest Speaker Armistice Day service  
 Niall Shepherd – RNZRSA support advisor  
 Lox Kellas – Dunedin RSA Welfare Chairman &  
 Otago Southland District President  
 Jane Sefo – Nurse Manager Montecillo



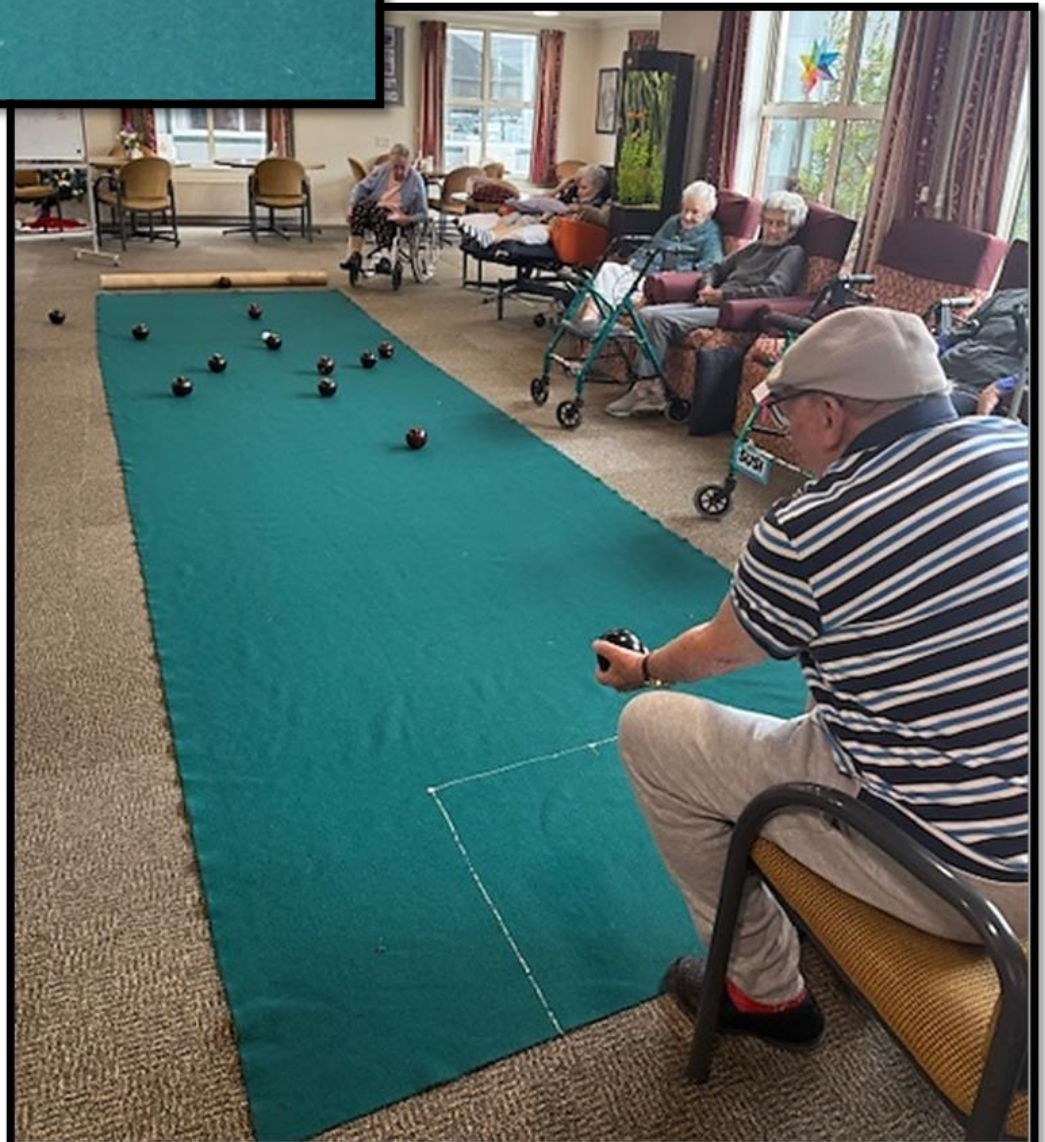








Angel and Anita have started up indoor bowls again twice a week, which has been a lot of fun and a good challenge for many residents. Bruce (Margaret M's husband, who is also a NZ bowls champion) has been assisting helping coach residents on how to bowl from a seated position. It's great to see the progress our residents have made in a short space of time. We also have several naturally talented bowlers who have never bowled before doing well.





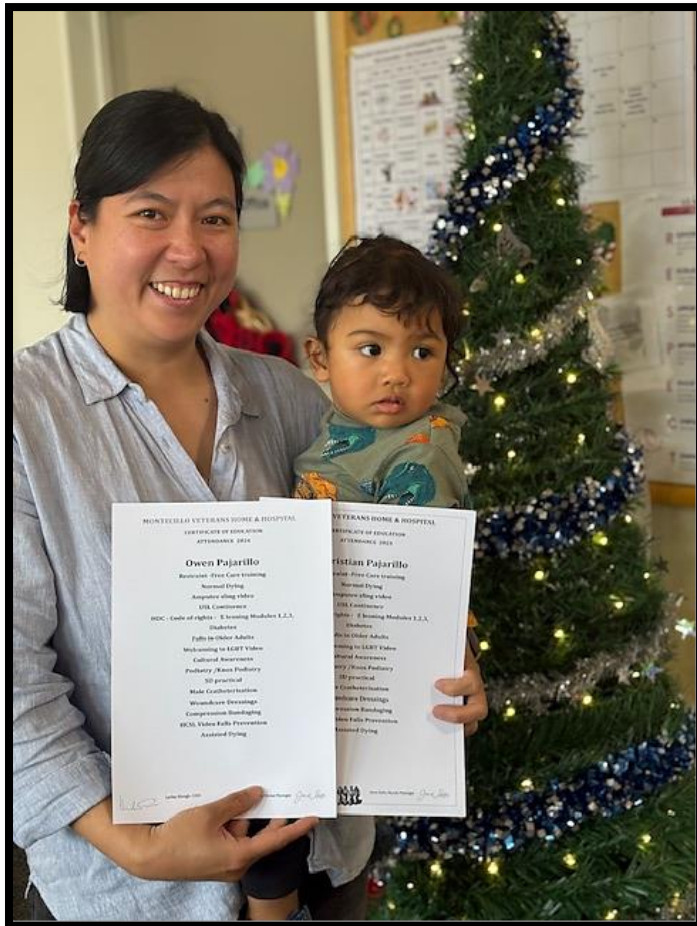
## Preparing for Christmas



It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas! This year is better than ever with all our decorations about. Pictured: Entertainer Sue singing Christmas songs for Happy hour.







Staff have been attending plenty of in-services. Nurse Manager Jane has been keeping us all busy refreshing our knowledge on topics throughout the year.

Pictured is Registered nurse Christian with her wee man Owen. Jane has been recording Owen's attendance at each of these sessions and presented him with his very own certificate at our final staff meeting of the month.

Ron pictured below with staff is heading off to Waiheke to be with family. We had a farewell afternoon tea. Ron has been residing at Montecillo since August 2020.

We wish you well Ron on your new beginnings.

## Good Luck for your Move to Waiheke Ron







Christmas celebrations with the RSA Choir on the 12<sup>th</sup> of December. Traditionally, Kevin Weir (President of the RSA) presents the cake to Clinical Nurse Manager Jane Sefo. Santa kindly visited all residents. Angel presented a homemade replica of Montecillo Veterans Home in gingerbread & confectionery including lights. It is amazing!!! She took over two weeks working away on this. How lucky are we to have such talented Activities team members – Angel & Anita





Paul & Fiona are new to us here. They played such a lovely variety of classical music. Fiona had costume changes throughout the session. & Griff who kindly came in to play some Christmas carols on his trumpet.





Finally, we all wish to thank our volunteer, Richard. How fortunate we are to have him as part of our team here at Montecillo. His beloved companion, Dana is very popular with residents, staff & visitors. We get a lot of compliments on how wonderful it is to see the dogs on the premises giving a very homely vibe, including Baxter at reception and Lynley has Anzac the facility dog upstairs and her own wee Fryberg. Many visitors enjoy bringing in their own dogs to visit their loved ones. Angel brings in her wee Chihuahua Evie some days too.



Thanks to Cecily for helping with Housie twice a week. Cecily was a health care assistant for many years here at Montecillo, now retired.

Also, thanks to John, Margaret H's husband for helping at Housie and sharing the lovely produce from your garden with us. We are very spoilt.



A big thanks to Roy for everything you do.

Most recently visiting each resident in a red suit with white trim, delivering gifts at our Christmas party. Roy tells us he has now been asked to fill this role in another rest home and a playcentre.

**Merry Christmas Everyone & Happy times for the New Year!  
May you all be blessed with special moments and good health  
with family & friends over the Christmas days and New Year  
ahead.**

*From the team @ Montecillo*