



# Winter Newsletter

2021



**Omokoroa**  
COUNTRY ESTATE

# First Impressions Count

**Talk to almost any Omokoroa Country Estate resident and they will tell you it was the gardens that first attracted them to the community.**

The grounds are a standout feature of OCE, have matured beautifully over the years and are constantly evolving due to the input of the landscaping and gardening team of five led by Rob McLaren.

Rob sees his role as creating and nurturing an environment for the greater good of all the residents. OCE gardens are a meld of the shared public street frontages and road edges and the private domains of each household. He steps a diplomatic fine line between enabling and assisting residents to put their personality on their own places while ensuring the estate enjoys a cohesive parklike appearance. One resident described Rob as having, "the patience of Moses and Gabriel!" Rob says he simply balances the requests of some residents against the needs of others with the aim of pleasing everyone.

Team members each take responsibility for tasks like lawns, edges and spraying, refreshing the gardens of refurbished homes. A systematic approach sees the grounds tended in zones with maintenance jobs varying according to the seasons. Two truckloads of green waste are taken out every week and recycled locally.

Rob and his team are working on evolving a more boulevard look for the streets, making the line of sight down them even more open and attractive.

The owners and managers of OCE fully support the investment in the gardens, understanding their importance in creating favourable first impressions and enduring enjoyment for all at OCE.

**The OCE gardening team**



**Rob**



**Paul**



**James**



**Graham**



**Kairuz**



# A Creative Community

**The Arts and Crafts day showcasing the work of OCE residents proved beyond doubt that they are a very creative group. Some brought long established artistic talents to OCE, others have found time to express their creative sides since moving into the village.**

The showcase on April 18 displayed a myriad of artistic endeavours, from painting and artworks in all media,

embroidery, quilting and other crafts, pottery and wood turning to name a few.

Visitors to the village admired the huge range of work while also being invited to inspect the grounds and amenities and enjoy a sausage sizzle.

OCE is very well set up for creative pursuits with many groups and excellent facilities often not found in other retirement complexes. The Art and Crafts Showcase demonstrated this clearly.

## For the Love of Art

**The art room was a clincher in Hanneke and Adri de Graaf's decision to move to Omokoroa Country Estate in 2016. They had viewed 14 other retirement villages and not one had an art room.**

Art has always been a passion for Hanneke, even if it did not dictate her career path. Hanneke took her parent's advice and, based on her love of reading, trained as a librarian. After qualifying she went to England for a year as a nanny and attended Harrow Art School. Back in Holland she pursued her art through night classes while working as a librarian, then, thanks to a benefactor, she was able to study at the Royal Academy of Arts in The Hague for two years. She and Adrianus (Adri) married in 1961 and had two daughters.

The decision to emigrate to NZ was a very considered one. In the end their older daughter stayed back. Adri had worked in a bank and did not want to continue down that path. When they arrived in Auckland in 1981, staying with friends in Howick, it was Hanneke who got a job first, as a librarian in Papakura's Rosehill

College. She then became Children's Librarian at Otahuhu Library.

Adri bought a half share in a café/deli at Half Moon Bay where he met lots of boaties. Invited to sail back to England, he decided Fiji was far enough, especially on discovering he could not send word of his whereabouts due to the yacht having no radio contact! Adri went on to work as a credit controller for entertainment group, Roadshow, for 17 years.

Meanwhile Hanneke combined librarianship with 35 years teaching art at Adult Community Colleges around Auckland, taking classes in sculpture, water colours and pastels, all subject matter, including nudes and she also sat as a model. "When you paint you know the pose that artist's want," she explains.

They lived in Howick, then Takanini, before the move to OCE. Her work is their sunny home, nestled in gardens, and displayed in the OCE art room are testament to Hanneke's artistic skills. She fires her sculptures, for which she has had commissions, in the OCE kiln. "We are so lucky



to have this," she says. She paints in water colour and pastel. Membership of the Omokoroa Artists group has led to more teaching.

Is there no end to this woman's skills? Hanneke is an accomplished quilter and a published writer of poems and short stories. At OCE she also enjoys reading and swimming. Gardening, cooking and baking are Adri's forte and he was making delicious biscuits the day this interview took place.

It's a partnership that obviously works well. They celebrate 60 years marriage this October!

# Walking the talk

**Don MacLellan likes the walks around OCE and the Omokoroa environs. He's in a fine position to judge, having walked the Camino in Spain three times!**

Residents will see Don pounding the pavements and tracks regularly over the next few years as he intends, Covid willing, to complete the 800 kilometre walk once more, when he is 80 and with his grandson.

Jenny MacLellan says she was perfectly happy waiting in Madrid while Don enjoyed the solitude and camaraderie of this transformative and meditative experience.

This well-travelled couple met in Wellington. Don left his native Scotland in 1964 to work in Hong Kong and his career with Goodman Fielder and the poultry industry has taken them to Fiji, Australia and New-Caledonia. Jenny was a shorthand/typing teacher before combining secretarial work with bringing up the family.

The MacLellans lived in Nelson and, before moving to OCE, resided in Tauranga's Avenues. For their next move in retirement, they were considering the merits

of an apartment in the city. "However, living here delivered us all the benefits and the atmosphere of an apartment with the added advantages of village life," Jenny says of their stylish interior with a sunny north facing living area. "It's so peaceful here," adds Don. "No sirens in the night or glaring lights."

Living in the city meant less connection with neighbours, most of them at work during the day, so Don and Jenny appreciate the friendly community atmosphere at OCE.

They enjoy the social events and opportunities offered in the Village and locally. Jenny is an accomplished embroiderer and Don plays golf at the Omokoroa Golf Course. However, they have also been able to retain regular social and sporting activities in Tauranga city.

It's been an easy transition for this couple and for Pippa, their old puss, snoozing in her basket in the sunshine.





*"If we made a list of what we wanted, it would have omitted much of what we have found we love here"*

# Basking in Community

Johan and Helena van der Merwe are simply revelling in life at OCE, so settled it's hard to believe they've only been here since September.

This enterprising South African couple moved to New Zealand in 2003, to Auckland, where Helena, a director and producer, set up a business making programmes for television and videos for businesses, ably supported by Johan, an avid photographer with a banking background. "Kiwis are the greatest and most loyal clients," enthuses Helena. "Once they trust you!"

In 2014 they relocated to Onemana on the Coromandel coast, to a large home where they intended to combine semi-retirement with offering accommodation. They discovered there's not a lot of community in a beachside community where most owners are absentee. When Helena experienced a very serious accident in their garden it prompted them to re-evaluate and move where health services were handy.

They've always liked the Bay of Plenty and, on an investigative drive, passed the entrance to Omokoroa Country Estate and noticed the beautiful gardens. "It did look very established, the houses perhaps not so new from the outside, but, when Emma opened the door to

this freshly refurbished interior and said, 'This is your new home,' I instantly agreed with her," says Helena.

They sold up in Onemana almost overnight, "gave away loads of stuff" and moved down. In a few months they have made it their own with removable covered outdoor structures giving them a garden room, one side of the garage devoted to Johan's wood turning passion, their eclectic taste adding zing to the neutral décor.

The move to Omokoroa Country Estate has exceeded every expectation for the van der Merwes. "If we made a list of what we wanted, it would have omitted much of what we have found we love here," says Johan.

They have found fondness for all the people they share OCE with, have met seven South African couples they socialise with regularly, joined the local church, appreciate and wholeheartedly buy into the give and take necessary to thrive here, love the pool and proximity to the sea and the golf course.

"We are bathing in community," laughs Helena. "Ten out of ten," adds Johan.

# Available Homes

We have three homes under refurbishment at Omokoroa Country Estate, with one of these under contract.

All homes are refurbished to our high standard and built for privacy and sun. Please let Emma know if you are interested in viewing. Homes will be available in the next few months.



## Home 116

159m<sup>2</sup> 3 2 1

This large 3 bedroom home will be available in July. It has an open plan living area with 2 patios, one off the lounge and one off the sunroom. It is surrounded by gardens and a short walk to our Village centre.

The home is having a full refurbishment and will showcase the high quality finish all our homes are known for. The master bedroom is large and has an en-suite bathroom. New bathrooms and designer kitchen, new carpet and gorgeous soft double tracked drapery will complete the luxurious feel of this home.



## Home 9

169m<sup>2</sup> 2 2 1

This gorgeous 2 bedroom home will be available in July. It has living downstairs with a view of your private garden from the kitchen. Upstairs is a large sun room and balcony with views of the sea. It is very close to our Village centre.

The home is having a full refurbishment and will showcase the high quality finish all our homes are known for. There are two bedrooms and two bathrooms. The home will have new carpet and gorgeous soft double tracked drapery.



## Home 108

157m<sup>2</sup> 3 2 1

This beautiful 3 bedroom home has a large living area with a private patio off the lounge and views of the sea. It is surrounded by gardens and is close to our Village centre.

The home has had a partial refurbishment and now showcases the high quality finish all our homes are known for. The master bedroom is large and has an en-suite bathroom and walk in wardrobe. The home has new carpet and gorgeous soft double tracked drapery.



These images are of a similar property and used for promotional purposes only. Furniture not included.

Contact our Sales Manager  
Emma Norton to discuss homes.

**Call:** (07) 548 1170 or  
Free Phone 0508 623 623  
**Email:** sales@ocestate.co.nz



# OCE Community Updates

## Tania Young, our new Relationship Manager introduces herself:

I am a proud Tauranga local who grew up in the Otumoetai area and now live in Bethlehem.

During my working career I have had the opportunity to work in several different fields. At the age of 17 I became a hairdresser and have had 20 years' experience in this industry. After my

son was born, I decided I needed a change of career and was offered a position as a PA for a real estate agent. This was a real eye opener but luckily, I am a quick learner. The administration experience was invaluable.

During the last five years living in Melbourne with my partner I secured a fantastic job in a Retirement Village as an administrator/receptionist. As we all know, Covid19 hit us and changed the world. Like many others I reassessed my life and decided to come home to be with my family who all live in Tauranga.



I feel blessed to have another job within a fine community of people, to care and help those who need assistance.

My role as Relationship Manager is to make sure everyone is happy!

I ensure new residents have a smooth transition into the village and answer any queries they may have. I am also here to assist any resident with anything within our power to enhance their lives.

I look forward to meeting you all and helping you make the most of the wonderful lifestyle here at OCE.

An update from Estate Manager, Kevin Searle:

### Constantly Improving Your Community

#### KEEPING YOU SAFE

Your security and safety are important so we've installed security cameras in the village. You may spot one on the lamppost in the teardrop garden which captures activity up and down Anderley Avenue. Another camera is mounted near the drive through at the Village centre pointing

towards Anderley. We have also increased visibility by installing additional street lights in strategic places around the village.

As another safety measure, a speed hump has been installed at the top of Heidi Cres to ensure vehicles take the bend more slowly.

#### HOMES PROGRESSING

We are currently refurbishing three homes.



An update from Sales Manager, Emma Norton:



### A Popular Place

It's been a busy sales period at OCE with all the available homes currently under contract. Sales manager, Emma Norton, encourages anyone considering moving into the estate to meet with OCE staff well in advance of their desired relocation, to discuss their needs and ensure they do not miss out. "We have a waitlist," she points out, "and the sooner you get on this the sooner we can welcome you to your new home."

## We have exciting news!

### We are delighted to have become the major sponsor of the Omokoroa Golf Club.

Our Village is only 500m from the 15th fairway of the links golf course and we are in the esteemed position of being able to offer this to current and potential residents and their visiting family and friends.

The golf course is an asset and many of our residents

enjoy golf there and have done for 40 years!!

New signage was installed in May which included the tenth tee sign, the entrance sign to the golf club and the sign writing of two golf carts. We are already proud sponsors of the 6th tee.

Photos: Omokoroa Golf Club board members Vaughan Anderson, Rob Mitford-Burgess & Allan Winter. OCE residents Alastair Lock, Dean Stanway, Jessie Savage, Dot Bowdler and Molly Dean with Emma Norton from the Estate.

