



People

HELPING PEOPLE

SPRING 2025

DIGITAL
NEWSLETTER

We're making a small but meaningful change to our People magazine: our Spring and Autumn editions will now be primarily digital newsletters, helping us reduce costs and environmental impact while keeping you informed, inspired, and connected.

Jim Beeby, resident and photographer (right) with Jo Hobson, Clinical Manager

Creativity and inspiration don't retire

At a fabulous 95, Jim Beeby, resident at Holmdene in Balclutha, continues to prove that age is no barrier to passion or adventure.

A keen photographer for many years, Jim is well known for his love of capturing the town through his lens. Jim had let the Holmdene evening staff know that, for the fourth night in a row, he'd be heading out looking for his 'perfect shot'. With his gear ready and his route familiar, he made his way to the road overlooking the Clutha River Bridge. Jim got the shot he had been after, "I knew it when I seen it – that was the one!" He printed the photo the very next day and with the help from staff, displayed it proudly in the hallway for all to enjoy – it's already become a favorite among residents, staff and visitors. A solid reminder that creativity and inspiration don't retire when we do! We are so proud to have Jim as part of the Holmdene whānau and we can't wait to see what he captures next.

Jim still sees the world through a photographer's lens – finding light, detail, and beauty in the moments around him. Living at Holmdene care home, he's supported by a philosophy that values who he is and what matters most to him. Here, Jim isn't defined by age, but celebrated for his choices, contributions, and lifelong passion for photography.

Cared for by staff who are guided by the Enliven values of respect, relationships, security, choice, contribution, and activity, Jim continues to capture stories through his camera – reminding everyone that creativity and connection have no age limit.

Moving into a care home is a change of address, not who you are. At the heart of the home is a team who care for their residents like family – offering not just assistance, but genuine companionship and respect.

Staff take the time to listen, share a laugh, and to make sure each person feels seen and valued for who they are. Holmdene provides more than comfort and safety – it's a place where residents are encouraged to keep doing the things they love, supported by a community that celebrates their individuality. With kindness and connection woven into daily life, the home is a true reflection of the Enliven philosophy: a supportive environment where residents can flourish. Holmdene is a true home where everyone knows they are valued.

For more information about our care homes across Otago visit our website psotago.org.nz/enliven



Presbyterian Support
Otago

OUR
SERVICES

enliven
PRESBYTERIAN SUPPORT OTAGO



FamilyWorks
PRESBYTERIAN SUPPORT
OTAGO



Buddies on the Airwaves – Young Voices Share the Impact of Friendship

Two young voices are bringing the heart of the Presbyterian Support Otago Buddy Programme to life through a new radio ad.

Recently, one of our young buddies stepped into the world of broadcasting to share just how much the Buddy Programme means to them and others like them.

The Buddy Programme has a simple but powerful purpose – to connect a young person with an adult mentor in a supportive, friendship-based relationship. These friendships help children grow in confidence, feel valued, and discover new interests and opportunities. For many young buddies, the experience of having an adult buddy is life-changing: having someone to listen, encourage, and believe in them can open doors to a brighter future.

Leading up to the recording, the pair, both with connections to the programme, had been practicing their scripts with excitement and anticipation. By the time they arrived at the MediaWorks studio, they were ready – and just a bit nervous – to step into the recording booth. They were fascinated by the soft foam panel walls, all the screens, and the microphone. There were lots of questions and excited energy!

With encouragement from MediaWorks staff member Gerald, the children soon found their confidence. After a few run-throughs, they aced their recordings, smiling from ear to ear. The highlight came when they listened back to the finished ad – hearing their voices with the backing music made it feel even more real! Everyone left the studio buzzing, proud of their efforts and thrilled to know their message would be on the radio for everyone to hear.

Through their radio debut, these two young people have shared not just their voices, but also a glimpse of the joy, connection, and confidence that the Buddy Programme inspires. And now, when the ad plays, they'll know their story is helping others understand the difference having a buddy can make.

If you are interested in volunteering as an adult buddy please visit psotago.org.nz/buddy. If you would like to support this programme please consider donating at psotago.org.nz/donate.



Message from Robbie

The spirit of creativity runs through the stories in this Spring edition of People – reminding us that together we can build communities of care, connection, and possibility.

Imagination is a powerful gift. It allows us to see beyond today and to craft tomorrow with hope. Our Board has drawn on this in developing PSO's new five-year strategy, now available on our website (psotago.org.nz/about).

This bold and clear plan builds on our strengths, stays true to our mission, vision, and values, and invites us all to be part of an exciting future.

Ngā mihi nui

Robbie Moginie
CEO - Presbyterian Support Otago

Annual General Meeting

30 October, 5.30pm
Burns Hall, adjacent to First Church,
415 Moray Place, Dunedin
SPEAKER: Steven Moe

ALL WELCOME

For catering, RSVP by 24 October to
reception@psotago.org.nz



Bex Lawrence playing a game of 'noodle ball' with residents

Meet Bex, volunteer at St Andrews care home

We're incredibly lucky to have volunteers who bring warmth, joy, and genuine connection to our residents. Introducing Bex Lawrence, one of our amazing volunteers at St Andrews care home.

Q. When did you first get involved in volunteering, and what inspired you to volunteer?

I started volunteering in November 2023. For many years, I worked as a ward receptionist at Dunedin Hospital – a role I loved. After facing some serious health challenges, I had to step away and focus on myself and my recovery.

Once I regained strength, I found myself wondering what direction to take. Aged care was new to me, but it had always interested me. When the opportunity to volunteer at St Andrews came up, I saw it as a chance to explore something different.

I wasn't sure what to expect at first, but I quickly discovered how special this environment is. The warmth, the stories, the laughter, and the deep appreciation from residents have made this experience incredibly meaningful. What started as a "let's see how this goes" has turned into something I feel genuinely connected to – and I am so grateful for the joy it has brought into my life.

Q. What do you enjoy most about what you do?

I've always been bubbly and upbeat, so volunteering as an activities assistant felt like a perfect fit. I love connecting with people and bringing light into their day. Even small gestures – a smile, a silly dance, a kind word – can make a real difference.

Working with Lisa, our incredible activities coordinator, has been a joy. Her creativity and compassion inspire me daily. Together, we plan fun and engaging activities – from crafts and baking to pamper afternoons, singing, dancing, and even our own Olympics!

Q. What's one of your favourite memories or experiences?

There are honestly so many special and funny moments to name, but a few stand out. One that always makes me laugh was during one of our cooking afternoons – we were all set to bake a lovely batch of muffins, but somehow, we ended up using margarine instead of butter. Let's just say, the result was less than ideal... the muffins came out absolutely rock hard! But instead of disappointment, the residents burst into the most contagious laughter. It echoed through the room and went on and on – everyone was in stitches.

And of course, there is housie – our version of bingo – where the competition for chocolate fish is fierce! You would think they were playing for gold medals with the way the excitement builds. The determination, the cheer when someone wins, and the good-natured teasing among the residents make it such a fun and lively experience every time.

Q. How does volunteering contribute to your world, and what do you hope the residents gain?

Volunteering has given me purpose and joy. Seeing residents light up when they see me is incredibly touching. If I've made even one person smile, I go home with a full heart.

Interested in learning more about volunteering?

If you would like to find out more about becoming a PSO volunteer, visit our website psotago.org.nz/volunteer or contact us on 03 477 7115



From left: Mary McKay (Manager – Taieri Court care home), Mary Bennett, (Pastoral Visitor Taieri Court – Mosgiel/North Taieri Presbyterian Parish), Rev Anne Thomson, (Interim Moderator – Mosgiel/North Taieri Presbyterian Parish), Michelle van Kampen (General Manager Enliven Services)



From left: Rev Karl Lamb, (Chaplain Ross Home – Mornington Presbyterian Church), Candi Young, (Pastoral Visitor Ross Home – Mornington Presbyterian Church), Rev Rachel Masterton, (Chaplain St Andrews – Coastal Unity Presbyterian Church)

Faith in Action: Welcoming Our New Chaplains

Chaplaincy is a key aspect of connecting those in our care to the support they need.

The chaplains' work is varied and deeply personal. They lead services, offer a listening ear, and provide spiritual guidance, emotional support, and pastoral care – always with respect for each person's individual beliefs and values. Their support is non-denominational, non-judgemental, and confidential. They are there for moments of joy and celebration, and they walk alongside people through times of difficulty or grief. From room blessings to quiet conversations over a cup of tea, their role is about presence, compassion, and connection.

We are delighted to celebrate a new partnership between our Dunedin care homes and Mornington Presbyterian and Coastal Unity churches, and a continuation of the longstanding relationship between Taieri Court and Mosgiel/North Taieri Presbyterian Church.

This partnership reflects a shared commitment to compassion, wellbeing, and community service.

We warmly thank these parishes for supporting and releasing their Ministers and Pastoral Visitors to care for the spiritual and emotional wellbeing of our residents and staff.

We recently gathered to celebrate the signing of these chaplaincy contracts, and it was heartwarming to hear stories of the positive impact already being felt.

This ministry is possible thanks to the generosity of our partner churches – not only in sharing their people but also through ongoing prayers, donations of goods, volunteering, and financial support.

Together, Presbyterian Support Otago and our church partners are putting faith into action – demonstrating God's love in ways that truly make a difference.

We are grateful for this shared mission, and we look forward to seeing how these chaplaincy relationships will continue to grow and bless our community in the years ahead.



We are asking local people to sign up to Raise\$500 for local social services - including Family Works Foodbank, social work support for families and individuals in crisis, as well as parenting and children's supports and programmes. Thank you for your kindness ♥

psotago.org.nz/get-involved

Support our programmes by donating to our unfunded community services:

You can donate online at psotago.org.nz/donate, use your internet banking service (details on our website), pop into our office at 407 Moray Place, Dunedin or call us on 03 477 7115 for more information.



CONTACT THE EDITOR
publications@psotago.org.nz



Presbyterian Support

Otago

How to return this form:

POST

Fundraising Team,
Presbyterian Support Otago,
FREEPOST 845, PO Box 374,
Dunedin 9054

EMAIL

fundraising@psotago.org.nz

PHONE

Contact us on 03 477 7115

**All donations are
receipted. Gifts over
\$5.00 are tax deductible.**

Presbyterian Support Otago is a charity registered under the Charities Act 2005, Charity Registration Number CC20878. The Privacy Act 1993 requires us to advise that we keep the names and contact details of our supporters on file to help with fundraising and event promotion. This information is only kept for this purpose. Please advise us if you do not wish your information to be stored. If you wish to check the details on your file, you are welcome to enquire.

Yes, I would like to help!

I would like to donate \$

Please use my gift
for



Greatest Need



Foodbank



Family Works



Your Details

Name

Address

Phone

Email

Donation options - it's easy to donate!



Donate via Credit / Debit Card

Card number

Name on card

Expiry date

CVC

Three digit code on back of card

Signature



One-off donation



Monthly donation

Other ways to donate

Donate via Internet Banking

Account Name: Presbyterian Support Otago

Account Number: 06 0901 0005597 00

Ref: Your phone number Code: **DONATION-PM**

Particulars: Programme you would like to support eg. foodbank

For a receipt, please email us at fundraising@psotago.org.nz

Donate Online via psotago.org.nz/donate

Use your credit or debit card to donate
via our website.



Phone banking via your bank's services



Call us on 03 477 7115 and we can process your credit or debit card donation over the phone



Donate with your EFTPOS card:

Pop into our Dunedin Support Centre at 407 Moray Place



Leaving a gift in your will:

Please call Ruth Wilson on 027 700 1342 to find out more