



MARRAM COMMUNITY TRUST



Ā TĀTOU KŌRERO - OUR STORY



CELEBRATING 75 YEARS

Celebrating our journey

Please enjoy reading of the Marram Community Trust's journey to this 75 year anniversary. Feel a sense of pride and achievement you've participated in such a special organisation adding value to the lives of so many deserving people over so many years. As relevant today as it's ever been, despite still providing benefits to people in the Marram community remarkably similar to those provided in 1945, the Marram Community Trust again has an important role to play. At its best when social and economic conditions are tough, the hardships of 2020 reacquainted many long serving, loyal Marram people with the benefits of being part of the Marram community at a time when many new people are joining. Participation in the Marram community is voluntary but once you're part of the community, enjoying the benefits while feeling satisfaction you're contributing to a legacy of care is compulsory. Read on.



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Front page:
The original coconut wood Tarawa Memorial honours the 17 New Zealand coastwatchers and five civilians captured in the Gilbert Islands. Located at Betio, an island township, part of Kiribati's capital city, South Tarawa. The memorial was erected by United States Marines in 1944.
Credit:
<https://nzhistory.govt.nz/media/photo/tarawa-coast-watchers-memorial>
Black day pp

2	FROM THE CEO
5	THE ORIGIN OF OUR KAUPAPA
8	A DEFINING MOMENT IN OUR STORY
11	A BRIEF HISTORY OF KIWI HOLIDAYS
14	WRANGLING A GLOBAL PANDEMIC
16	SALUTING OUR VOLUNTEERS
18	ANNIVERSARY STIRS UP GREAT MEMORIES
24	STAYING ON TOP OF YOUR HEALTH THROUGH THE YEARS WITH MARRAM HEALTH CARE
26	EXPERTS AGREE ON HEALTH BENEFITS OF HOLIDAYS
28	KEEPING MARRAM HOLIDAY HOMES EN POINTE
30	INTRODUCING YOUR TRUSTEES
32	TAKING CARE OF BUSINESS: MEET THE MARRAM TEAM

Ā TĀTOU KŌRERO - OUR STORY



The Marram story shaped by he tangata the people

It's no ordinary story, the Marram story.

It stretches back 75 years and like many stories it's been shaped by history, wars, disasters, good times and bad.

But mostly it's been shaped by he tangata - the people.

People with a vision of setting up a trust to help Kiwi workers and their families recover from the devastating effects of WW2.

THE ORIGIN OF OUR KAUPAPA

The dream of establishing holiday homes for convalescing service personnel, and low cost holidays for their families, was realised in December 1945 when the Marram Community Trust we know today was set up as the Post Office Welfare Trust.

The Post Office played an important role during the war with employees delivering mail to our service men and women, and serving as radio telegraph officers.

Approximately 5,700 staff served, and more than 700 were wounded or killed on the job.

THE SHAPE OF THINGS TO COME



The first holiday homes were basic converted army huts at Musick Point in Auckland. They were crude by today's standards, with timber walls and floors, and covered by a canvas roof. Washing facilities were housed in another hut out the back.

Converted army huts,
Musick Point, Auckland

A DEFINING MOMENT IN OUR STORY

October 15th 1942 – a defining moment that doubtless impacted the decision by the New Zealand Post Office to set up the original trust to help its workforce recover from the devastating effects of WW2.

On that day seven Post and Telegraph radio operators, along with 10 soldiers were rounded up by the Japanese on the Gilbert Islands and beheaded.

The Post and Telegraph workers had all volunteered for coast-watch duties in the Pacific. Along with others stationed around the New Zealand coast, their job was to report any sightings of enemy ships or aircraft.

Their service was hugely significant as many New Zealand troop ships heading to the Middle East passed through the Pacific.

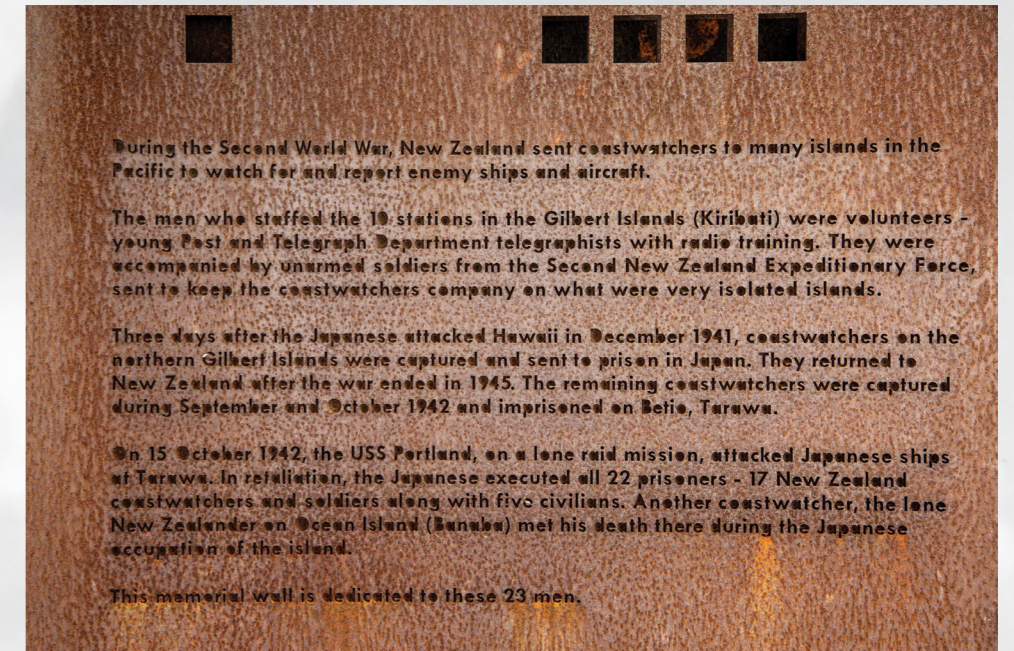
However three days after the US bombing of Pearl Harbour in December 1941, the coast-watchers were taken prisoner by the Japanese.

Some were taken to internment camps in Japan and others held captive on Tarawa Atoll in the Gilbert Islands, known today as Kiribati.

The shocking massacre of the Kiwi postal workers came following an attack on the atoll by the US cruiser Portland.

In retaliation, Japanese soldiers took 23 men and decapitated them, burying their bodies in one pit and their heads in another.

Today those 17 New Zealanders are commemorated with a 30-metre long memorial wall at the the New Zealand Post headquarters on Waterloo Quay in Wellington.



Below: Marram Trustees, from New Zealand Post Peter Taylor and Theresa Kim alongside the memorial wall at New Zealand Post headquarters, Waterloo Quay in Wellington. Photography by Destina Munro



A BRIEF HISTORY OF KIWI HOLIDAYS



Kiwi holidays have changed a lot in the last 75 years.

But for many, the current trend of holidaying in our own backyard, will be invoking a sense of déjà-vu.

Pre-Covid, many New Zealanders took their holidays overseas, but it wasn't always this way.

75 years ago, holidays were likely to be shorter, involve very little travel, and considered a privilege not a right.

Prior to the Annual Holidays Act of 1944, holidays were mostly centred on bank holidays like Christmas, Easter and the Queen's birthday.

For the majority of New Zealanders, holidays had to be taken around the Christmas and New Year period.

However the 1944 act granted all Kiwi workers the right to two weeks paid holiday a year, and the way we took our holidays changed significantly.

The holiday entitlement increased to three weeks in 1974 and four weeks in 2007.

HITTING THE ROAD

Beach holidays have always been popular with Kiwis. Perhaps a ritual inherited from our British forebears, but in the 1940's tramping and camping became increasingly popular ways to spend a holiday.

Car ownership had increased after the war allowing people to travel further and to more isolated places.

Caravans appeared in the 1950's, and to this day, along with the more mobile campervan, they're a common if not always welcome sight on our roads during the holiday season.

"'Happy Summer Holidays' Motor Camp, Mount Maunganui, 1968" by Archives New Zealand

IS IT A CRIB, A BACH OR A HUT

Well it depends if you're in the deep south, Canterbury or the North Island.

Whatever you call it, the bach, crib or hut was a modest holiday home, often built without permits and found off the beaten track or in rugged remote places.

To this day many Kiwis holiday in a crib, bach or hut.



FINDING OUR WINGS

We didn't really start heading offshore for holidays until the 1950's.

Around this time bigger jet aircraft flying international routes started calling here. Previously, most overseas travel was by ship, and was slow and expensive.

Australia was a favoured destination in the 1960's and 70's.

New Zealanders would return from their trans-Tasman holidays weighed down by cheaper electrical goods.

Top: Foxton Beach
Marram holiday home
Bottom:
Ngarimu Bay Marram
holiday home

Right: Air NZ over Wellington
Photography by Destina Munro

COVID TAKES US BACK TO THE FUTURE

Fast track to 2020. And at a time when it's never been easier to take to the skies and go anywhere in the world for holidays, along comes a global pandemic and clips our wings.

Suddenly we're rediscovering our own backyard. We are supporting Kiwi businesses and tourist operators while holidaying at home.

Who knows what holidays of the future will look like.

Maybe eco holidays, and sustainable travel will become the next big thing.

But one thing's certain, we've re-ignited a love of holidaying in our own country and that's no bad thing.



WRANGLING OUR WAY THROUGH A GLOBAL PANDEMIC

MARRAM 'AS RELEVANT TODAY AS IT EVER WAS'

Guiding a business through a pandemic is challenging in many unexpected ways, but Marram CEO Glenn Clark says the trust came through it relatively unscathed.

"We planned, tested and were as ready as we could be," he says.

Glenn had been watching the story unfold since early January and says by early March he saw the lockdown coming.

"We all discussed it and started putting things in place. We tested the staff's ability to work from home by having a test day with technical assistance on hand. That was on the Monday and on the Tuesday the PM announced the country was being locked down from midnight Wednesday. "We squeaked in just in time," he says.

With the staff onboard Glenn says it really was a breeze.

When asked about the most challenging problem, he laughs. "There were the usual IT issues but it was actually redirecting mail."

Throughout the most unusual weeks of our lives staff worked on, processing healthcare requests, and responding to the requirements of the various levels of lockdown before returning to the office at level two.

Reflecting on the experience Glenn says Marram is as relevant now as it's ever been.



"Back in the 1940's there was a crisis and a need for benefits. Those benefits are the same today as they were at the end of the second world war."

NAVIGATING PANDEMIC LOCKDOWN RULES

Lockdown restrictions proved challenging for all accommodation providers and Marram was no exception.

After a good start to the year, 2020 changed course very quickly.

As the country went into lockdown under level three and four restrictions, Marram had to respond in ways that met government lockdown rules.

At level four all holiday homes were closed, keys removed, bookings cancelled and full refunds provided for those affected by the rapidly changing situation.

COMING TO THE RESCUE AT LEVEL 3

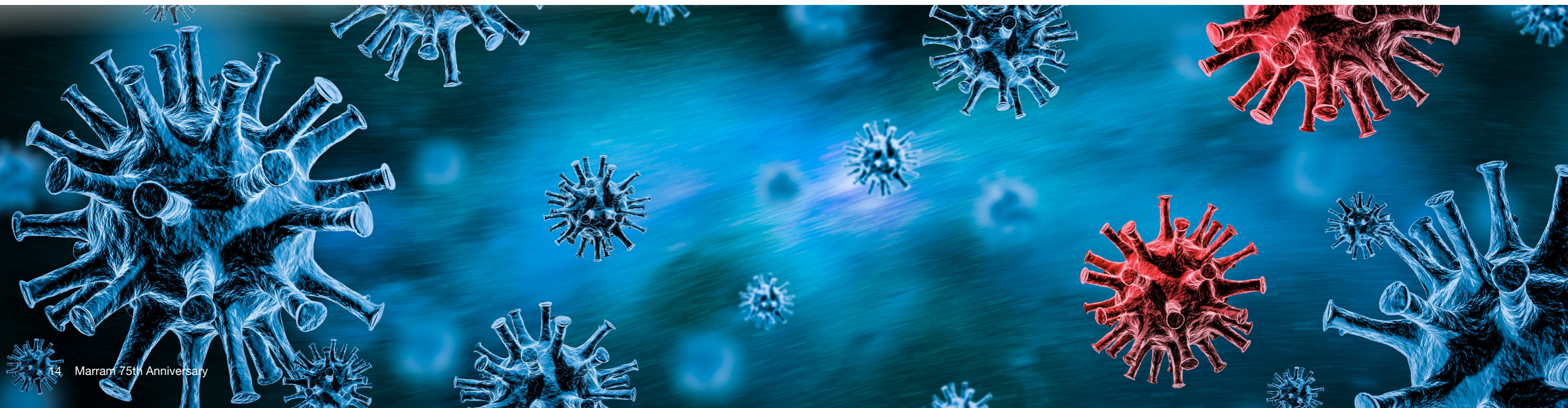
At level three Marram was able to make a few changes allowing beneficiaries and employers to use the homes under a revised priority system while still meeting Covid regulations.

Homes were offered to beneficiaries needing emergency accommodation and employers needing to house employees doing essential work away from home.

The definition of family was also temporarily changed to include elderly parents and adult children.

BACK IN BUSINESS AT LEVEL 2

Under alert level two all homes opened again for bookings, but not before a thorough cleaning. A small one off cost was added to bookings to cover the cost.



SALUTING OUR VOLUNTEERS

Cheers to our volunteers. The stalwarts of our holiday home network.

Today, as they did 75 years ago, these members of the Marram whanau step up 365 days a year to keep our homes in great shape and take care of the needs of those using them.

There are currently 44 volunteers looking after 156 holiday homes throughout the country.

'They care about the homes as if they were their own.'

Marram property manager Fiona Van Eyssen says they are her eyes and ears on every property.

"They care about the homes as if they were their own, and I couldn't do my job without them."

The role of the volunteer has changed a bit over 75 years. Fiona says back in the day it really was a volunteer role but today's volunteers receive payment and it's more of a facilities management position.

Volunteers generally come from the Marram community and have a good understanding of what Marram is about.

They are responsible for keeping up standards, repair work, problem solving and taking care of emergencies like guests being locked out.

They're a great bunch according to Fiona. "Without them we wouldn't run as efficiently as we do."

VOLUNTEER'S STORIES

PHIL AND LOIS ROBERTSON



Phil Robertson started looking after Marram's Whangarei homes 27 years ago and he says he won't be retiring from the job anytime soon.

The 83 year old started as a volunteer after finishing a 39 year career at Telecom. He and wife Lois were avid users of the holiday homes and Phil says it seemed like a logical progression to actually start looking after them.

He says not a lot has changed under his watch, he still enjoys keeping the homes clean and well maintained and especially loves meeting and getting to know the guests.

Phil co-opted Lois in for the annual cleans which he says could take eight to nine hours for each unit. That has changed now with the

introduction of commercial cleans following Covid-19.

But this energetic octogenarian uses the extra time this has given him by walking daily, gardening, visiting elderly people and serving as bandmaster for the Whangarei Salvation Army.

Phil's secret to a long and healthy life?

"Good living, staying busy, no alcohol, daily exercise and Sky Sport," he says.

"They'll have to cart me out," he jokes, "Truly it's been a privilege to keep doing this work for the Marram Community Trust."

Loyalty a recurring theme

SANDY HUME

Managing 14 holiday homes in the busy tourist hotspot of Mt Maunganui is no walk in the park, but volunteer Sandy Hume loves it still, after 16 years on the job.



Sandy says she's on the job 365 days a year, cleaning and servicing the apartments and problem solving for guests, but wouldn't have it any other way.

"I enjoy it. I have my regulars and I enjoy meeting new people," she says.

Sandy's seen a few changes over the years. She loves the refurbishing that Marram's carried out on the homes, and says guests and volunteers appreciate it.

Sandy says Covid was challenging with cleaning becoming a fulltime job but her husband Rob helped out. "I've got hubby well trained now."

In the past Sandy and Rob's kids helped clean for pocket money.

"When they needed money for petrol they'd turn up asking to help with cleaning."

Currently Sandy's on a mission to teach people to recycle, a project she says is going well.

DON AND MARGARET TIETJENS



Don and Margaret Tietjens have been volunteering at Marram's Palmerston North cottages for 25 years.

At the time they started the cottages were known as SevenAway cottages, and as the name suggests, guests were expected to stay for a week.

But Don says not everyone did and as a result the cottages were not being fully utilised.

Back then according to Don, guests would be expected to mow lawns, do some gardening and clean the houses before leaving.

The couple say there was a distinct lack of colour and interesting decor back then, and they love the work done in this area today.

But most of all they love seeing the cottages being used more these days, the ongoing restoration and ease of booking.



Greytown Marram holiday home

**To all our Volunteers
kia ora for giving
up your time and
making our homes
so welcoming and
pleasant to stay in.**



75th anniversary stirs up memories

Valerie Nicholson's holiday memories are full of fun, laughter, family, important milestones and good times.

Valerie has been staying in Marram (formerly Post Office) homes since she was four years old, that's 70 plus years ago.

One of her earliest memories is a family holiday taken in the late 1940's at the Browns Bay holiday homes in Auckland.

"It was quite a mission. We had to bus to Hamilton from Matamata, take the train to Auckland and then a ferry to Browns Bay. There was no harbour bridge in those days.

They were army huts and I clearly remember the grey army blankets on the beds. Nothing like the excellent accommodation we have today," she says.

She recalls her mother packing extra suitcases full of linen and food.

In those early days the young family also stayed at the original holiday homes at Musick Point near the marine radio station.

"In a twist of fate my brother who later worked as a marine radio operator for the Post Office,



Alan and Valerie Nicholson (right) have enjoyed over 70 years of holidays at Marram homes.

was posted there."

After marrying Alan and having a family of her own, Valerie who worked for the Post Office, Telecom, the National Bank and NZ Post over the years was able to continue the tradition of staying in our holiday homes.

Through the years she says many significant family occasions have been celebrated in Marram homes.

"When our daughter graduated from Otago

University we stayed, along with my 80 year old mother and sister-in-law at the Dunedin house. It was very special."

And for Alan's 70th birthday the family gathered at the holiday home in Orewa.

"We were able to cater for a 70th birthday



party. The homes are so well equipped," she says.

Valerie remembers other memorable holidays like the 'girls trip' to Wellington for WOW three years ago.

"Those Wellington apartments were perfect. They're so close to the venues and cafes. My daughter joined us from Auckland and we had a great time."

When asked about the best homes she's stayed in Valerie picked Tekapo.

She says the units are on a hill with views to the mountains and lake.

"It's a stunning place to stay and comes complete with a snow shovel in the porch."

Thankfully she didn't have to use it, but says she will never forget the views from the deck at the Tekapo house.

After 70 plus years of holidaying in New Zealand, Valerie was asked to reflect on how things had changed over the years.

"Sadly, I think people have lost the actual ability to sit back and relax on holiday. But on the positive side, it's much easier now to get from point A to B, to have a holiday."

And the things she loves about the Marram holiday homes of today?

They are so well equipped and presented. It's such an easy process to book them and she loves the diversity of the people she meets when using the homes today.

"What a wonderful thing they did, those guys 75 years ago, giving all those young guys a chance to have a holiday," she says.

And 75 years of making memories in our holiday homes isn't over yet for Valerie Nicholson.

"I have such great memories, going way back, and they will go on being made way into the future," she says.

We're sure they will Valerie. It's been a pleasure having you in our homes.

Treasuring memories

WET WEEK NO DEALBREAKER FOR ONE COUPLE

CLIFFORD AND LORRAINE MATTHEWS

In fact it was obviously a blessing according to Lifer timer Clifford Mathews who says he and his wife Lorraine are still laughing about the entry they found in the visitors book at the holiday home in Picton.

It simply read, 'Had a great time. Rained all week.'

Nine months later, Clifford says they saw a birth notice in the newspaper and recognised the name from the visitor book entry.

"I cut the notice out and taped it against the entry," he says.

Clifford and Lorraine have stayed in 80 Marram holiday homes over the last 60 years.

"Our family has been part of Marram for nearly 40 years. So many great holiday memories including a honeymoon staying at Marram homes in the South Island."

"Three generations. The first cottages were very basic but met the needs of our family holidays."

"Thanks for awesome memories of family holidays."

"Such a great history - and moving with the times."

"Thank you Marram for all you do and have done for my family over the years."



Above and right: Picton Marram holiday homes

STAYING ON TOP OF YOUR HEALTH THROUGH THE YEARS WITH MARRAM HEALTHCARE

Marram's Healthcare Benefits Programme was established in the 1960's to help working families look after their health, and works alongside the holiday homes benefit.

The Healthcare programme's been reviewed, improved and simplified over the years, to become a benefit that stands proudly when compared to regular care plans offered by health insurers today.

MARRAMCARE

			How much will Marram reimburse?	How much can I request each year?
HOLIDAY CARE		You've over 150 homes available up to 12 months in advance, except balloted school holiday periods.	Nightly bookings from just \$80 per night plus cleaning or service fee.	Weekly bookings from just \$320 per week plus cleaning or service fee
SPECIALIST CARE		Cardiologist Neurologist Mole Mapping Pregnancy Testing Endocrinologist	CT Scan Psychiatrist Ultrasound MRI Scan And more...	Reimbursements of up to 60% \$2500 per family each year.
DAILY CARE		Doctor Visits Prescriptions Physiotherapy X-Ray	60% 60% 60% 60%	\$400 \$400 \$300 \$250
MENTAL CARE		Psychiatrist - Specialist Benefit Psychologist Accupuncture Therapeutic Massage and more...	60% \$20 per visit \$20 per visit \$20 per visit	\$2500 per family each year \$200 per year \$200 per year \$200 per year
SELF CARE		Medical equipment Disability support Alternative therapy Osteopath, Chiropractor, Podiatrist, Dietician, Homeopath, Audiologist and more...	60% 60% \$20 per visit \$20 per visit	\$250 \$600 \$200 \$200
DENTAL CARE		Oral surgery (Only wisdom tooth extraction & root canals) Orthodontic	60% 60%	\$250 per tooth - per 2 years from first receipt \$600 (overall treatment)
EXTRA CARE		Hearing Aid Ambulance Convalescent Holiday Distant Treatment Grant Terminal Illness Grant Funeral Grant	100%	\$400 \$50 - \$250 \$320 (One off) \$500 (One off) \$1000 (One off) \$1000
OPTICAL CARE		Glasses Contact lenses Eye Tests	100%	\$250 (per 2 years from first receipt)
TOP UP CARE		Excess from Health Insurance - Southern Cross, nib etc		If you're not 100% covered, we'll top up the rest.

EXPERTS AGREE ON HEALTH BENEFITS OF A GOOD HOLIDAY



Things that challenge us when it comes to staying in good shape healthwise today are generally quite different to the health challenges of 75 years ago.

But the global pandemic we've lived through this year has given us a good insight into the health issues caused by stress, anxiety, isolation and separation during the second world war.

There are many reasons it's become harder these days to take a good relaxing holiday.

The seven day working week has impacted our ability to find time to relax.

Many will remember when shops and pubs closed at six o'clock on a Saturday night and didn't open again until eight on a Monday morning. Sunday truly was a day of rest.

However, in the 21st century it's hard to disconnect from the 24/7 world we live in.

'Stress is only a bad thing when the amount of stress exceeds our ability to meet the demands of the stressors.'

IT'S ALL ABOUT BALANCE

According to Shaun Robinson, head of the Mental Health Foundation, work-life balance is among the top three concerns being expressed by kiwi workers in recent workplace surveys.

He says many of us struggle to find enough time to give to whanau, our physical health or things that regenerate us.

"A bit of stress is not necessarily a bad thing," he says, "but it becomes a bad thing when the amount of stress exceeds our ability to meet the demands of the stressors."

Shaun's a great advocate of holidays, which he says offer us a chance to lean into things we know are good for our health.

"They allow us to connect with whanau, friends and relationships we need to maintain, and give us a chance to be active, taking care of our mental and physical health."

The Mental Health Foundation boss has the following holiday advice:

Slow down and take time to appreciate the little things.

Experience the joy of being around children and family.

Keep learning.

Be flexible and open to trying new things and learn new skills.

Take up the challenge to try a new sport or get better at something.

Really experience how it makes you feel and find ways to work it in to daily life.

And don't let devices eat into holiday time.



Shaun Robinson, Chief Executive, Mental Health Foundation

KEEPING MARRAM HOLIDAY HOMES EN POINTE

The grey army blankets and converted army huts are long gone and today's holiday homes are a far cry from those on offer 75 years ago.

It's no longer necessary to lug heavy suitcases laden with linen and food on buses, trains and ferries, like Valerie Nicholson's Mum did all those years ago.

Today's homes come fully equipped with bedding, kitchen equipment and modern appliances.

The homes are refurbished every six or seven years by Marram's Property Manager Fiona Van Eyssen and Product Manager Debbie Shute.

Both agree good holiday homes must be welcoming, comfortable and like 'A home away from home.'

WHAT'S IN A COLOUR

The pair start by creating colour swatches to test colour matches for carpets, walls and curtaining.

"A healthy interest in House and Garden magazines and regular visits to Resene paintshops are essential," says Fiona with a smile that suggests it isn't an onerous job.

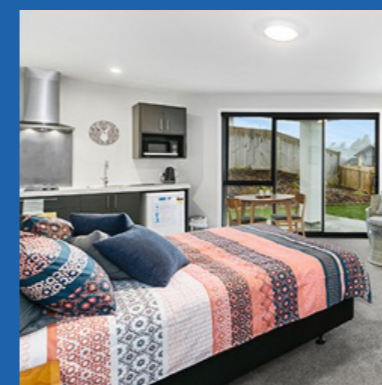
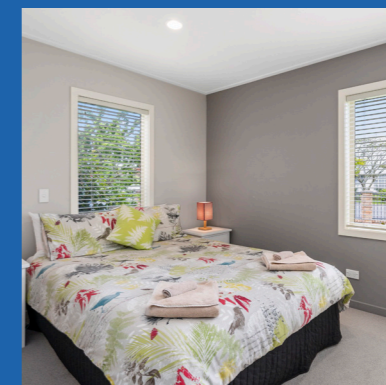
On trend colours aren't the only consideration, matching the environment is also important.

With a re-furb policy of out with the old, in with the new, local charity shops and organisations like Womens Refuge are offered furniture and items no longer required.

With the last refurbishment of the Lyall Bay home completed, and the new homes in Dunedin Westgate now online, 2021 will see Picton and Kaiteriteri homes getting some Marram refurbishing love.



Property Manager Fiona Van Eyssen (left) and Product Manager Debbie Shute.



MARRAM

INTRODUCING THE MARRAM COMMUNITY TRUST

The trust is a not-for-profit organisation governed by a Trust Deed and Board of Trustees.

It's a registered charitable trust in terms of the Charitable Trusts Act 1957, but is not a registered charity under the terms of the Charities Act 2005, so doesn't qualify for tax exemption.

FUNDING

Initial funding to establish the holiday homes network came from the sale of war bonds. When this source ran out, regular contributions from Post Office employees covered the trust's costs.

Today, Marram is funded by holiday home rentals, contributions, and investment income.

The funding is used to reimburse healthcare expenses, heavily subsidise rental costs for holiday homes and meet maintenance costs.

Excess funds are put back into the organisation.

MEET THE TRUSTEES

We have seven board members who all come from affiliated organisations.

These trustees oversee and review operations and advise on Marram's Community Trust business and organisational objectives.

The Trust also works closely with Marram's CEO on succession planning, risk assessment and mitigation and long term planning.



Heather Polglase
Chairperson



Graham Henderson
Appointed Trustee



Lizena Gray



Carey Oldfield,
Appointed Trustee



Peter Taylor



Gina McJorow



Scott Childes



Theresa Kim



Penny Burgess

INTRODUCING THE MARRAM WHANAU



GLENN CLARK

We call him Glenn.

An all round good guy who's responsible for keeping the Marram machine running smoothly.

Glenn Clark's been CEO here at Marram for the past 12 years, and he's a passionate advocate for the Trust.

When he's not busy working, Glenn is indulging his other passions, motorcycle touring and farming.



PAULA MACKAY

Paula Mackay looks after the Marram support people - the people who look after you.

She's been making sure your Marram experience is the BEST for 12 years now. Away from the office Paula's a bit crafty.

"I love to knit, crochet, sew and travel. I mainly knit baby clothes and crochet baby blankets as there's always someone having a baby," she says.

When it comes to travel Paula loves the home away from home feeling she gets when staying in Marram homes. "I'm always proud to show them off to family and friends."



ERICA JONES

Erica is no stranger to numbers. Before joining the finance and accounts team at Marram seven years ago, Erica was a teacher of mathematics.

Outside of work Erica's two young children keep her busy.

She looks forward to being able to devote more time to her other passions, photography and music in the future.



STEVE ANDREWS

Steve Andrews is the new guy in the Marram support team.

He's still that guy even though he's been in the job for 11 years.

"Recently I have dipped my toes into the IT world, taking on the role of IT support, making sure our website and systems are running well and looking good for the contributors," Steve says.

He says the best thing about the job is being able to help you all, which is a good thing given he's fondly known as the go-to guy around the office.



DEBBIE SHUTE

Debbie Shute is Marram's product manager these days, but when she started here 20 years ago, it was in marketing.

When Debbie's not busy looking after our holiday homes and healthcare, she's travelling the country with her beautiful Border Collies, competing in dog agility events.

"I have four dogs and I'd like more. Along with my hubby they are my best friends."



FIONA VAN EYSSSEN

Fiona's our property manager.

She's been working for Marram for the last nine years, working with volunteers and local tradespeople to make sure your holiday home is in tip top condition.

She's also responsible for the modern makeover of many of the homes which she says were formerly quite conservative.

Fiona says she loves this aspect of her job. "It's great fun shopping and choosing furnishings to brighten them up."



ROSHNI KISHORE

For the past 11 years, Roshni has been looking after the finance team at Marram.

She says a balanced life is important to her. She practices yoga and meditation, keeps fit with Zumba classes and likes to do gardening and charity work.

When she's not doing that, Roshni and her family are out creating great memories at Marram holiday homes.

"We have created a lot of life-long beautiful memories in them," Roshni says.



KIM GOODIN

When she's not reading, baking, or going to the gym, Kim's working part time in the Marram support team.

But over the 20 years Kim has been at Marram, she's worked in a variety of roles.

After starting out in office admin, she's applied her skills to accounts admin, marketing, customer services and property management.

"I've enjoyed my time at Marram immensely," she says, "and I've worked with some amazing people."


NAOMI BRAY

Rugby loving Naomi Bray is an accounts administrator who's worked at Marram for eight years now. Along with rugby she loves her fur babies Lexie and Quincy and the fact that they can come on family holidays to Marram homes. When at home Naomi enjoys woodturning with husband Barrie who gives her a season ticket to the rugby every Christmas. "He won't go with me though. Something about being too loud with my cheering. I go instead with my girlfriend," she says.


MURRAY CROMBIE

Murray Crombie's another old timer at Marram, having spent 20 years processing Marram benefits. His mate Baxter is the concierge and happiness officer in the Marram office. He's been greeting and assisting guests in the office for the last couple of years. Murray says he's seen a few changes in the time he's worked at Marram "I'm very proud of the great service and wonderful benefits available to our contributors and lifetimers," he says. He's also pretty proud of the new Ford Mustang he bought, along with young puppy Baxter back in 2016.


SARAH TEVITA

Bringing a ray of Pacific sunshine into the office is our support team member, Sarah Tevita. Sarah says her parents are both from the Samoan villages of Gataivai and Sala'ilua, but she was born and raised in Wellington. "I come from a family of seven and share my birthday with my twin sister." Sarah loves the opportunities to explore her own backyard that working at Marram has given her.


BAXTER

My name is Baxter and I was born in the Wairarapa in 2016 and I live with my Dad Murray in Upper Hutt. I have lots of friends at work – especially the ones that feed me. Walks and food are my priority. I attend all office meetings making sure they are conducted in a timely and productive manner.


LESLEY KROSSCHELL

Greetings all,
I am Lesley
Hikurangi is my mountain
Waiapu is my river
Horouta is my canoe
Ngati Porou is my tribe
My family is from Rangitukia
I grew up in Turangi, I live in Wellington now.
Lesley Krosschell is my name.
Greetings, Greetings, Greetings all.
"Ring, ring... ring, ring... ring, ring, welcome to Marram trust, Lesley speaking,"

Teena koutou katoa
Ko Lesley ahau
Ko Hikurangi tooku maunga
Ko Waiapu tooku awa
Ko Horouta tooku waka
Ko Ngati Porou tooku iwi
Noo Rangitukia tooku whanau
I tipu au I roto I te Turangi, Kei Te Whanganui a Tara tooku kainga inaianei.
Ko Lesley Krosschell tooku ingoa, noo reira Teena koutou, teena koutou, teena koutou katoa

"ring, ring... ring, ring... ring, ring, welcome to Marram Trust, Lesley speaking,"





MARRAM COMMUNITY TRUST



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