

# WelfareNews

NEW ZEALAND RAILWAYS STAFF WELFARE TRUST

ISSUE 43 \* ALL GROUPS \* MAY 2024



## AUCKLAND DEVELOPMENT

Great news – our Auckland units are ALMOST READY!

As of the time this newsletter goes to print, we are waiting on the final few jobs (e.g. landscaping, curtains) and for the Council to sign off on practical completion.

The units will open to members as soon as we have practical completion from Council. Thanks for your patience, we can't wait to show them off!



## MEDICAL BENEFITS

The 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025 benefit year is now open and we are accepting claims for this period.

Claims for receipts dated 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024 are closing soon and must be in to our office by 30<sup>th</sup> June 2024. Please note that the post can take up to 3 weeks to arrive! Any late claims will not be able to be processed. The fastest way to get a claim to us is to lodge it on your dashboard.

## SUMMER BALLOT

Holiday home bookings over the busy summer season are subject to a ballot procedure. In 2024 the ballot period will be from 21 December 2024 to 22 February 2025. Applications for accommodation over this period must be received **by 5pm on 31<sup>st</sup> July 2024**. The ballot will be drawn in the following days and all participants will be advised of the outcome. Once the ballot is drawn, any leftover vacancies will be opened up on the website for general booking.

Ballot applications must be for one week's duration and this year are Saturday to Saturday only. Group A members will receive preference, then Group B, then Group C. Group E members cannot enter the ballot.

To apply for the ballot, members can:

- Enter their accommodation preferences in the member log-in area on the website.
- Call the Trust office on 0800 806 444 or email [info@nzwelfare.co.nz](mailto:info@nzwelfare.co.nz) and request for a form to be filled out on the member's behalf.

Top tips for a successful application:

- Make sure your application is in on time,
- Put 3 date/location options in order of your preference. The more options you put, the more chance you have of getting something.
- Play the odds! If you choose Ohope between Christmas and New Year, you are going to be competing with hundreds of others for the one house. If you put Rotorua (where there are 4 houses) in a less popular week such as late February, you have a higher likelihood of getting it.
- Reduce the size of your party – this will give you more options in terms of locations and units. (e.g. there is one unit in Mt Maunganui that sleeps 8 people and 5 units that sleep 6).

## FACEBOOK

We advertise news, short term vacancies and other information on our Facebook page so please like us to be in the know - [www.facebook.com/nzwelfare](https://www.facebook.com/nzwelfare). If you are not on Facebook, all updates are also on the "News" page of our website.

## QUEENSTOWN LIVE-IN CARETAKER WANTED

The Welfare Trust is seeking expressions of interest from members only for the role of residential custodian at its property in Queenstown, from 1 December 2024.

The role is part-time (20 hours per week) and ideally suits a retired individual or couple. Would not be suitable for someone who is working elsewhere. Some gardening/basic maintenance skills required. Must love people and chatting to members from all walks of life.

The custodian lives onsite, and is responsible for maintaining the property, and looking after members.

If you are interested in learning more, please email [info@nzwelfare.co.nz](mailto:info@nzwelfare.co.nz) for a full job description.

## MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTION RATES

### GROUP A

From 1 July 2024 Group A subscription rates will increase to \$9 per week. Your payroll will make this change automatically, there is no need for members to do anything.

### GROUP B/C/E

Group B/C/E subscription rates will remain at \$55 per annum (and \$35 for Gold Card holders) for memberships from 1 July 2024 onwards.

Renewals are now able to be paid online in the member log-in area of the website. If you have received this newsletter in the post, then your annual invoice is enclosed. Payment is due by 30<sup>th</sup> June please.

## ACCOMMODATION RATES

Accommodation rates were reviewed by the Board for bookings made on or after 1 June 2024 and the following change has been made:

- Weekly accommodation rates for all properties will increase by \$5 per week.

The Trust strives to keep accommodation and membership rates as low as possible to allow our members to take affordable holidays. An increase is necessary for the Trust to be sustainable in the long term.

## STAFF FAREWELL

It is with mixed emotions that we share news of Elizabeth (Liz) Lester's decision to step out of her role as GM at the Welfare Trust, after 7 years in the position.

While we were sad to receive her resignation, we wholeheartedly support Liz's choice to pursue a new opportunity, knowing she leaves the Trust in a very strong position following her transitioning of the Trust into utilising all of the electronic features of modern society.

Wayne Butson, Chairman of the Trust, said "Liz has completed every objective that was given to her upon employment and the trust is now functioning successfully in meeting all of its employment and landlord obligations and in the member benefit area. She has been great to work with and has been a boundless source of ideas and innovations. We wish her well in her next role."

Helen Rogers, fellow Trustee, said "Liz puts people at the heart of everything she does and that has benefitted our members considerably over the past 7 years".

Liz said "I have loved working with our members and staff over the years and I am so proud of what our team has achieved together. It's time for my next challenge now but I will miss you all immensely. I look forward to being a Group B member!"

The Trust Board is now focused on recruiting a suitable successor for Liz, who will keep the Welfare Trust doing what it does so well. The recruitment process has commenced, and advertisements will appear shortly via the relevant channels.

Liz will finish up with the Trust at the beginning of July.

## NEW OFFICE, VISITORS WELCOME

We are finally in our new office on Level 3 of the Wellington Railway Station and look at our view!



We welcome visitors any weekday between 10am and 2pm. As we are a small team, please call in advance if you are coming from afar just in case we are on leave.

## CONTACT US

Phone	0800 806 444
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Email	<a href="mailto:info@nzwelfare.co.nz">info@nzwelfare.co.nz</a>
Website	<a href="http://www.nzwelfare.co.nz">www.nzwelfare.co.nz</a>
Facebook	<a href="http://www.facebook.com/nzwelfare">www.facebook.com/nzwelfare</a>

Our phones are answered Monday to Friday 10am to 2pm.

If you are staying at one of our holiday homes and you need assistance outside of these hours, please contact the caretaker listed on your "Property and Access Information" sheet, accessible on your dashboard on our website, or emailed to you when you paid for your booking.