



Growing bonds developing between sister cities

A group of visitors from Dunedin's sister city Shanghai, enjoyed an information gathering visit to Chatsford.

The visitors were from the Hongkou District in Shanghai, which has one of the fastest growing elderly populations in China. The district and its sub-cities are in the midst of researching how best to care for their growing elderly population. The Hongkou District is one of the eight major districts within Shanghai Municipal Government with a population of 24 million people. Hongkou City, which exists within the Hongkou District, has a population of 900,000 people.

The visiting group's focus was to see how existing successful models of retirement villages such as Chatsford, operate. The Chatsford community offered them a very good insight into retirement village living. They were given a guided tour of the community and a resident kindly opened her home for viewing.

In addition to the Chatsford community, the adjoining connection with the Birchleigh Residential Care Centre offered a firsthand example of advanced care for elderly people.

Anthony Deaker from Enterprise Dunedin Group of the Dunedin City Council, who arranged the visit said that members of the group expressed to him how much they valued their visit to Chatsford and their discussions continued throughout a dinner that evening. They were very interested in how the NZ Government shapes their elder care provisions and how businesses like Chatsford had developed their business model.

This was Hongkou District's first formal visit of some of its representatives to Dunedin. To build further on the connections they made, Dunedin City Council CEO Sue Bidrose, accompanied by Hui Zhang, will visit the Hongkou District later this month.

In June this year, Anthony Deaker was hosted in a staff exchange to the HongKou district. He was introduced to examples of creative industry development and visited an impressive business incubator for arts, design, media and tech business. He says an exciting opportunity is evolving between a Dunedin-based fashion designer and a Shanghai designer that is leading up to an exhibition in both countries, along with a supporting publication.

The sister city connection between Dunedin and Shanghai is growing and strengthening annually and as a result relationships are developing in a depth of civic, cultural, business, education, health and creative industries. In 2019, the cities will celebrate 25 years of co-operation.

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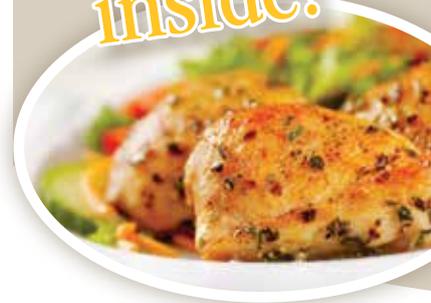
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Chief's chatter

Welcome to the Christmas 2017 edition of our Chatsford Chat.

We have so much great reading in this edition – I am surprised there is space for a piece from me!

As expected, the visit to Chatsford by Judy Bailey in mid-October was a genuine highlight in the Chatsford calendar. We have had fantastic feedback on Judy as a person and on the talk she gave to more than 200 residents and guests. After spending more than an hour chatting about her very full life, Judy stayed on to mix and mingle with the audience and was there until the very last person had departed.

We continue to find some extraordinary Kiwis for our annual guest speaker event, and Judy was certainly no exception.

There have been a lot of other great events and celebrations at Chatsford since the last edition of the Chat.

In early October, our Residents' Committee put on their annual Spring Luncheon for Chatsford residents. As you will see from the photos in this edition, this is always a popular event, with our residents enthusiastically getting into the spirit of Spring Fever – plenty of colour and a lot of fun!

In late October we held an event to recognise a number of our team for their long service to Chatsford. Staff were acknowledged for achieving 5, 10, 15 and 20 years of continuous service. The biggest cheer, however, was reserved for Dawn Brieseman who has been with Chatsford from the very beginning and has now clocked up an amazing 26 years.

At the start of November Chatsford (and Birchleigh) were visited by a delegation of six officials from the Hongkou District of Shanghai. This was organised by the Dunedin City Council which was hosting the Hongkou delegation for a two day visit to the city. Their reason for coming to Chatsford and Birchleigh was to learn about the models of care that are available in New Zealand for people of retirement age and beyond. Hongkou (and China as a whole) has a massive and growing population of older citizens and they are very keen to learn what options other countries have available for their retiring baby boomers.

The delegation was extremely impressed with the homes, amenities and services offered by Chatsford,

with many asking, only half-jokingly, whether they could put their name down for a home in the future!

Then, in early November, we held our annual (usually) 10 Year Club celebration. (Last year we were forced to skip this event as we dealt with the aftermath of our lightning strike.)

The 10 Year Club recognises those residents who have made Chatsford their home for 10 years or more. For recent events, we have had to add a 15 Year Club and a 20 Year Club. And this year we were delighted to recognise our wonderful Frances Yeoman for her 25 years at Chatsford – a fantastic milestone for a remarkable woman.

In this edition you will once again get to read the interesting backgrounds of some of Chatsford's residents. Bruce and Pat Abbott have lead varied and very busy lives and are clearly not afraid of hard work. Between them they have been involved with wool classing, clerical work, enrolled nursing, running a motel and then a 4-Square store. Bruce has only recently stopped working as a wool classer for Walter Peak Station.

Bruce Churchill has spent 50 years driving buses of all sorts and around most parts of the South Island. I suspect, during that time, he has seen his fair share of crazy drivers and close calls. It is also nice to know that some things never change... As it did 30 years ago, a visit to Roxburgh still demands stopping for a Jimmy's Pie!

But right now we are approaching Christmas mince pie season. With that in mind I wish you all the very best for a safe, happy and healthy (not too many pies) Christmas.

I look forward to catching up again in 2018.

Malcolm Hendry
Chatsford CEO



Chatsford Chat Online

Each edition of Chatsford Chat can now be **easily accessed online**. For readers who would prefer this option to a hard copy edition, please indicate your preference by forwarding your email contact details to: **info@chatsford.co.nz**.

On the road again!



Driving buses is in Bruce Churchill's bones. His first experience driving buses began in 1967 for the New Zealand Railway Road Services.

Since then he has experienced all facets of bus driving from suburban routes, long distance and charter buses.

He drove coaches on suburban runs to places like Mosgiel, Port Chalmers, Waikouaiti and Palmerston. On his first run he'd travel to Seacliff hospital dropping papers off to residences along the way. He'd also drop off mail bags to shops on-route. He'd be given a cooked breakfast at Seacliff and pick up people who lived in Warrington and deliver them to their work at the hospital. Then he would do the school run. Another common suburban route he regularly drove was to Port Chalmers and occasionally for wharfies picnics.

The longer South Road run from Dunedin to Cromwell began at 12.30am. Half of the bus was reserved for freight, bread and mail bags and the other half was allocated for passengers. The driver would pick up crates of milk from the milk treatment station, load up the remaining freight and then wait until the Otago Daily Times was printed, which was scheduled at 2.30 am. He remembers that one morning the paper wasn't printed until 5am which set the whole schedule out of whack. He drove in all weathers and had to use chains when the roads were icy.

Along the way from Dunedin to Alexandra he'd hurl up to 156 papers out the window as he drove. At Milton he'd stop at the depot, drop off mail and freight; then on to Waitahuna. When he reached Lawrence he'd have a cup of tea waiting for him at the Post office which also served as a telephone exchange at the time. Then he'd drive on to Roxburgh and have a Jimmy's Pie.

"The NZ Railway Road Service drivers were like a band of brothers. They were a lot of really nice people. We still stay in touch," he says. They'd work shifts for nine months followed by three weeks holiday and were all eligible for railway houses. When the New Zealand Railway Road buses were disestablished in 1991, he and his fellow workers were made redundant. At that point New Zealand's bus service became user pays and a totally new era began.

Bruce continued to drive buses and pieced together a new work schedule. In a period of four years he worked seven jobs for seven different companies. When he drove holiday tour buses his responsibilities included delivering a commentary as well as unloading passenger's luggage right up to their hotel rooms, and cleaning and washing the bus. He also worked as a night shift supervisor at one stage and worked from 10pm through to 7am.

One of his most memorable trips was delivering John Rowles' crew and equipment on the South Island leg of a nation-wide tour. He began the tour in Invercargill. After the show he delivered the back-up band and orchestra to their hotels and then returned to the theatre to pick up the equipment. He hasn't forgotten the rigours of loading the sound system, lighting and instruments into the bus via the front door after the show, which took until 2am. He was back on deck the following morning at 7am to drive to Dunedin and then continued with the tour for the following weeks through Timaru, Christchurch, Nelson and Picton. The bonus was that he got to attend every concert. He was 'absolutely knackered' afterwards.

Up until 2007, Bruce and his wife Marie lived in Roseneath. They then moved to Glenavy where they renovated a very run down house and took advantage of their proximity to the local salmon fishing and scenic attractions. Bruce continued to drive buses, and he worked for Pearsons, driving Cruise Ship tours from Port Chalmers. He later drove the Glenavy school bus for five years and Marie, a chef, worked at Iona Rest Home, and then later the Waimate Town and Country Club.

Marie's mother Dorothy Cottle already lived at Chatsford and when an apartment became available three years ago, Bruce and Marie decided that it was in their best interests to also move there.

Bruce currently drives the school bus between East Taieri, Wingatui and Allanton. "The kids quite like me," he says. "They call me Mr Churchill. I keep them at arm's length, I'm friendly with them, but we don't become mates. They know I'm not frightened to growl at them if I need to."



All aboard! Bruce Churchill enjoys being behind the wheel.

Spring is in the air and residents were out to

With great company, good food and wine, the luncheon was a great success.

From left: Shirley McLennan, Irene McDiarmid, Barbara Chilman and Pauline King.



The annual Spring Luncheon in the Summerfield hall brought a smile to everyone's faces.

From left: Melva Baird, Aileen Labes, Brenda Cordelle, pours the wine for Margaret Barber.



Right: Malcolm Boote seeing the bright side of life.



Above: Phyllis Barnett and Valda Jopson both chose to wear purple tones for the occasion.



Above: Brendan and Chota Moore and Maureen Millichip enjoying each other's company.

Celebrates

to welcome it at a luncheon and other events.

Neighbours Jenny Heller and Blake Barber toast to each other's good health.



What better way to spend a spring afternoon?
From left: Dorothy Burnard, Frances Yeoman and Ray Scott.



At this year's **Spring Flower Show**, the number of entries increased further and provided a real showcase for the many special blooms in Chatsford's renowned beautiful gardens. The decorative fruits or vegetables category always attracts interest and this year was no exception. The imaginative transformations of vegetables on display were a great delight.

Below: Jean Harrison stole the show with her delicate and endearing eggplant penguins.

Bottom: Bob Watson's large and unusually shaped yam became a fascinating fish.



Above: Margaret and Sydney Gabites relax and enjoy their afternoon.



Only treats this Halloween!

Right: Marie Churchill embraced the Halloween spirit this year and became the lollies giver to all she encountered.



Taking a well-earned rest

With over 50 years of experience under his belt, Bruce Abbott is recognised as one of the top fine woolclassers in New Zealand.

At 72 years old, he has only recently stopped working for Walter Peak Station. He has worked on most of the Wakatipu stations including, Halfway Bay, Cecil Peak, Walter Peak, The Branches (beyond the Skipper's Canyon) and Motutapu.

"It's definitely the end of an era for me, after 19 years working there," he says. "They gave me a good send-off."

Bruce and his wife Pat are relative newcomers to the Chatsford Community. They've taken their time to settle after being at the heart of the Millers Flat Community in Central Otago for 22 years.

They've shouldered a lot of responsibility throughout the years and are slowly becoming acquainted with their new found freedom. Their Banks Place property is a peaceful spot with a lovely established garden that they are enjoying adding their own personal touches to with one notable addition; two white sheep sculptures in the entrance way.

Bruce holds a Diploma in Wool classing from Massey University and has been awarded a number of Merit Awards from NZWCA. He says wool classing is mentally demanding work which often involves having to assess up to 1200 fleeces a day, to be sorted into 12 different lines.

"It's only recently when I started doing some mentoring work with junior classers that I fully realised just how much is involved," he says.

Bruce has worked in a range of sectors within the wool classing industry including pressing and wool classing in a wool store, one year working in the shearing sheds in Australia, working as the works manager of woollscours in Dunedin and Wellington and as Manager of a Wool Testing branch in Dunedin. He is presently Executive Officer/Registrar for the NZ Wool Classers Association.

"I'll always be passionate about wool. It's a lovely product to work with. I like the people in the industry as well. I'm definitely going to keep my hand in – I'm still going to class wool at a few places."

In tandem with his seasonal wool classing commitments Bruce and Pat operated student accommodation for the YMCA in Dunedin and the Otago Polytechnic in Cromwell. They were also owner/operators of the Millers Flat 4 Square for five years.

Pat laughs when she says that she and Bruce met as children. "If anyone had told me then that we would marry, I wouldn't have believed them. However, our strong personalities complement each other," she says.

The couple have been married for 49 years and have two children and five grandchildren.

When Pat first joined the workforce she worked in a clerical position for the then Southern Electrical Power Supply and was trained to use what was then the latest in technology, a Burroughs Accounting machine. After their marriage and the birth of their two children and a move to the Hutt Valley, she continued in this role with Carter Holt Harvey. She then decided to pursue an ambition and completed enrolled nurse training. She worked at Hutt Hospital for two years and also at Dunedin Hospital Outpatient clinic in a clerical role.

One of her lifelong passions is reading. She worked at both the Alexandra Public Library and the Millers Flat Library. At the Millers Flat library she volunteered and assisted the school with class library lessons; a role that gave her much satisfaction, especially seeing the "lightbulb" moment when children got the reading bug. She also enjoys patchwork and sewing.

One of the couple's proudest accomplishments while living in the Millers Flat community, was their involvement in the Millers Flat Water project.

The idea began when Pat read in the Otago Daily Times about a Drinking Water Assistance programme, which offered a subsidy for small communities and being involved with the local promotions group thought that this would provide an opportunity for some financial assistance to the small community.

The Millers Flat scheme was first mooted in June 2005 but the project had had to deal with several hurdles. After copious hours of research and voluntary hours, the Millers Flat community lead by Bruce as Chairman/Project Manager and a small committee managed to pull off what many thought was impossible.

The \$760,000 town water scheme (subsidised by the government by \$608,000) was described as the most significant thing to happen in Millers Flat since gold was discovered. To begin with 86 connections were made in a town of 130 residents. It provided up to 1000 litres a day of some of New Zealand's purest water to each property plus 200 litres a day for each householder. Now there are 105 connections.



Top: Bruce and Pat Abbott.

Above: Bruce hard at work woolclassing.

Cook's corner

Barbara Buskin is this edition's contributor to Cook's Corner.

Barbara moved to the Chatsford Community recently, after living for nearly 40 years in Andersons Bay in her family's home, which overlooked the golf course and had lovely views out to sea.

Recreate some of the tasty treats from Barbara's kitchen!



New to Chatsford, Barbara Buskin shares some great recipes



Cut out and keep

MAPLE SLICE

4 oz butter
1 egg yolk
4 oz sugar
1 tsp baking powder
8 oz flour
A pinch of salt

Filling:

1 egg white, beaten stiffly.
Stir in ½ cup of sugar
1 cup of coconut
½ cup of chopped nuts
½ cup of dates
2 oz of melted butter.

Bake at 180°C for 20 minutes.



RICH ROCK BUNS

Barbara's Rock Buns are her son's favourite snack when he goes out mountain biking or on his many adventures. She got the recipe from a cookbook that one of her bridesmaids gave her.

Ingredients:

5 oz butter
8 oz self-rising flour
5 oz sugar
8 oz mixed fruit
1 egg
Milk to mix

Sift flour, rub in butter, add sugar, the beaten egg and enough milk to make a stiff consistency. Add mixed fruit.

Grease baking tins (add flour).

Bake 10 minutes at 210°C, near the top of the oven, or maybe slightly longer.

CHICKEN DELIGHT

One of Barbara's very good friends introduced her to this recipe and it quickly became one of her favourites. She finds it simple to make and yet it is so tasty.

Ingredients:

4 chicken thighs

Mix:

½ cup of apricot jam
½ cup of French dressing
½ packet of French onion soup

Cook for one hour at 175°C uncovered, or make a double recipe and cook for five hours on high in a crockpot. Thicken with cornflower.



A warm welcome

To hold an audience's complete focus is no small feat, however October's Celebrity Speaker Judy Bailey, was as graceful and entertaining as ever.

An accomplished speaker and familiar face to all New Zealanders through her well documented broadcasting career; Judy delivered a fresh and inspiring message to her listeners.

She is a glowing example of the age old adage 'charity begins at home'. In times when there is so much uncertainty in the world it is a comfort to hear of people who are tackling problems on the ground and making a real difference in everyday people's lives. In her address she drew from her experiences working for New Zealand charities such as Friends of Women's Refuge, The Brain Wave Trust Aotearoa and the North Shore Hospice. She was also very generous with her time speaking with people after her talk which was a highlight for many who attended.

Her television series *Decades in Colour* captures social history through revisiting what was once a New Zealand family treasure – home movies. The series has unearthed a sense of how New Zealanders once lived their lives and what they did in their leisure time. She has discovered that older viewers enjoy the nostalgia while the younger ones are intrigued and touched.

Through retrospective glimpses such as these people tend to reflect on where we are now as a society. "It makes you stop and think about what is important in your life," she says.



Long-time Chatsford Resident Frances Yeoman was "tickled pink" to have a chat with Judy Bailey.



Judy and visitor Lorraine Myles enjoy a cup of tea and a chat together.



Among the many Residents and 260 attendees who thoroughly enjoyed Judy's talk were (from left) Guest Ruth Parks, Chatsford Resident Faye Potts and Guest Veronica Law.



Chatsford Residents enjoying the afternoon together after attending Judy Bailey's talk. From left: Brenda Cordell, Jenny Heller, Gaynor Norman, and Joyce Cleugh.



Judy Bailey's talk attracted many visitors to Chatsford including Gwen McCammon and Joan McClenaghan.



Chatsford residents took full advantage of the opportunity to meet Judy (from left) John and Jenny Heller and Blake and Margaret Barber.



As we prepare for Christmas, the team at Chatsford take the opportunity to wish you and all those close to you a very Merry Christmas. We trust you will enjoy a relaxing time with your immediate family, relatives and friends, and wish you a healthy and prosperous 2018.