

Part of Our Community

Age Concern Horowhenua offers numerous services to anyone 65 and over but one that is perhaps least known is the Accredited Visiting Service (AVS).

"We know there are people who could really use this service," said Finance administrator and AVS coordinator Lynn Pettigrew. "This really is a win, win service. We match up a volunteer to visit one of our people for an hour each week." Visitors can be anyone over 18 years old.

Activities coordinator for Age Concern Horowhenua, Robynne Merwood would like to see more volunteers to cover Shannon and Foxton.

"We are so lucky to have excellent volunteers available in Levin and would welcome more people to visit," she said.

After a Police check, applicants are given on-going training before they are assigned. "We take lots of care matching our people up," Lynn said. "We have men and woman from all walks of life. I have seen many very genuine friendships formed through the years."



Age Concern Horowhenua Finance administrator and AVS coordinator Lynn Pettigrew holds a Life Tube which is an Age Concern initiative for people to write their details to put in the tube and place in the fridge. If their house burns down or the person is unable to speak for themselves, the tube holds all relevant information. Robynne Merwood (right) is likely to be the friendly face at the Horowhenua Age Concern desk when you call in.

Happy times shared

For information call into the Age Concern office at 538 Queen Street, Levin from 9am until 3pm Monday to Friday or phone 3672181

Some volunteers take their 'friend' on an outing, perhaps to a movie or a park. "Volunteers are not

expected to take them out, to do housework or anything other than spend an hour sharing and enjoying each others company," Lynn said. "Some like to go that extra yard, or the friendship develops that they enjoy doing things together."

Age Concern Horowhenua started in 2005 to deal with elder abuse and neglect. It has developed to provide a raft of additional services including Driving Safe for Senior courses, collaborate with Horowhenua District Council to hold an annual Age on the Go Expo, workshops and Tea dances.

Be Prepared

Knowing what to do, and having what you need available, in a power cut will keep you safe and more comfortable

DO call Electra 0800 567 876 (0800 LOSTPOWER) to report a power cut

DO use your gas BBQ or camp stove for cooking

DO disconnect sensitive appliances at the wall

DO keep torch and batteries handy at all times

DON'T use candles as they may cause fires

DON'T go near broken power lines!



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