

## Harmony House—Te Whare Marie launched...



*Harmony House—  
Te Whare Marie...  
A vision achieved...*

**It has not been easy...but it has happened.**

There is an acknowledged real need for peer led and managed services for people with experience of mental illness. This need has been acknowledged by the Ministry of Health and is supported by leaders in the Taranaki DHB Mental Health and Addiction Services.

So when local Service Users, trained as Mental Health Support Workers try to establish a crisis respite and planned respite care service – why is it so hard to get practical support?

Payment for planned crisis respite is too little to enable a Charitable Trust to provide a financially viable service. The only suggestion from Funding and Planning and the Taranaki DHB's Mental Health and Addiction Services was for the Charitable Trust to work within another provider.

**Harmony House – Te Whare Marie**, with Dr Samir Heble, former Executive Clinical Director as Patron, formed a Charitable Trust. Trustees found that adequately staffing such a facility as a separate entity, meant that there was no chance of it ever being financially viable. Reluctantly, Trustees of Harmony House closed the Trust.

However, the driving force behind the idea, Karen Wehle, has, with the support of fellow Service Users, continued with her vision to establish this peer led - peer managed care respite supported accommodation - in their own right.

**Such a venture will be a first for Taranaki, putting as it does, peer support services at the forefront of ownership and decision making – where it belongs.**



Are you a user of Mental Health  
or Addiction Services?

We offer carer respite Accommodation  
(with trained Peer Support staff)

Why Peer Support?

We have  
walked  
the same walk.  
Our story may not  
be the same,  
however, the journey  
to recovery  
is.

We have Team Members available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Harmony House Te Whare Marie is a home of  
**Peace, Harmony, Recovery and Empowerment**

We offer art activities, a quiet room for reflection, your own bedroom with key, cosy comfortable surroundings, and good wholesome home cooked meals.

Self referral with Ministry of Health Carer Respite Papers or Private Respite Care by arrangement with Team Leader.

All enquiries to: [harmonytewharemarire@xtra.co.nz](mailto:harmonytewharemarire@xtra.co.nz)

Phone: (06) 757 5589 New Plymouth or Mobile: 0274 993 651

### Congratulations Karen.

Against significant odds you and your team have achieved a milestone.

May your team, and service, enhance and enrich the lives of all involved. And...do ring and make time to view this wonderful residence for yourself.

Gordon Hudson—Guest editor



Source: the Manawatu Evening Standard

**"Korero Mai"** is edited by Gordon Hudson, **"What's On"** by Stephanie Mapley and **"Whakaaro Pai"** by Tony Spencer—all from Like Minds Taranaki. Your news and views are eagerly sought. Like Minds Taranaki, P O Box 5015, New Plymouth, 3rd Floor, Stirling Sports Building, Devon Street West, NP, ph 06-759-0966 [mental.health@xtra.co.nz](mailto:mental.health@xtra.co.nz). [www.likemindstaranaki.org.nz](http://www.likemindstaranaki.org.nz)  
The October 2012 issue will be distributed in late September 2012. Contributions by Friday 21st September, 2012 please.