

DEMENTIA HAWKES BAY

Supporting people to live well with dementia mate wareware
and walking alongside their care partners, families and whānau

SUPPORT

From diagnosis and throughout the
dementia journey

PROGRAMMES

Connection, stimulation, activity and
purpose

EDUCATION

For clients, whānau, community and
industry

Hawke's Bay, Aotearoa New Zealand

WHO WE ARE

Dementia Hawkes Bay

Our services are designed to help people remain at home, stay connected to their community and continue doing the things that give life meaning.

LOCAL

A Hawke's Bay charitable trust focused specifically on dementia mate wareware.

FREE SUPPORT

Support, programmes and education are provided to clients and their whānau.

WHOLE JOURNEY

We walk alongside people from diagnosis and throughout their dementia journey.



Our aim is not simply to provide care — it is to preserve self-determination, connection and purpose.

OUR PROGRAMMES & SUPPORTS

A wraparound approach to living well with dementia



Active Brain Programme

Social, cognitive and physical stimulation in a safe, consistent environment.



Cognitive stimulation

Structured opportunities to exercise thinking, communication and connection.



Carer & whānau support

Support groups, information and education for the people walking alongside the person.



Client & community education

Practical education about dementia, communication, changed behaviour, self-care and living well.



Industry education & awareness

Building dementia understanding and capability across the wider community.



Transport & group outings

Pick-up and drop-off transport and opportunities to remain active in community life.



Creative & practical activity

Arts, crafts, collaborative projects — and our onsite The Workshop That Makes Mistakes.



Young Onset Dementia

Participant-led connection, activities and community outings — building belonging, independence and purpose.

The workshop is one part of a much bigger ecosystem of support.

THE WORKSHOP THAT MAKES MISTAKES

Making things that matter, for people who matter — and that's no mistake.

Trevor Marsh & Jan Snoad – The Workshop That Makes Mistakes Dynamic Duo!



THE STORY: AN UNEXPECTED OPPORTUNITY

From a Cyclone Gabrielle disruption to a new choice for clients

After Cyclone Gabrielle in 2023, a damaged community workshop created an unexpected opportunity.

Trevor Marsh joined us and helped turn an under-used purpose-built space into a workshop service.

JULY 2023 → 6 clients/day • 2 days/week

NOW → 10 clients/day • 4 days/week

Demand grew because it offered an alternative to traditional group programmes — practical, purposeful and meaningful.

PURPOSE

CHOICE

CONNECTION



THE ENVIRONMENT

Not a simulated activity — a real place to make, solve and contribute



Tools • timber • benches • projects in progress

Tasks are adapted to the person: measuring, sanding, painting, assembling, sorting — or simply working alongside someone else.

HOW PARTICIPATION WORKS

Big projects become small, achievable contributions



MAKE



PAINT



ASSEMBLE

Choose • plan • make • problem-solve • connect

A participant can contribute at any stage — and every contribution counts.

DIGNITY OF RISK

Moving from “keep people safe” to “support people to live”

OVER-PROTECTION

**Risk is eliminated
Choice narrows
Skills can be lost
Participation shrinks**

RISK ENABLEMENT

**Risk is understood
Support is adapted
Choice is respected
Life remains meaningful**

In the workshop: assess → adapt → support → review — without removing the opportunity to contribute.

COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTION

The work travels beyond our walls



\$1,400 raised for ANZAC Day
\$2,000 raised for Cancer Society Hawke's Bay
100% of proceeds returned to the respective charities.



What we observe in practice

- ✓ Increased confidence
- ✓ Improved mood and engagement
- ✓ Stronger social connection
- ✓ Pride in contributing to community projects
- ✓ Maintenance of practical skills

Practice-based observations — not presented as clinical outcome measures.



Five principles we can transfer anywhere

1

Start with the person

Interests, past skills and confidence determine the task — not the diagnosis.

2

Make success achievable

Break projects into small jobs so there is always a meaningful way to contribute.

3

Support without taking over

Safety matters, but so does ownership. Give time before stepping in.

4

Make something real

Useful, visible outcomes strengthen pride and community connection.

5

Normalise mistakes

Humour and experimentation reduce pressure and keep the environment human.

See the workshop in action



THE WORKSHOP THAT MAKES MISTAKES

MAKING THINGS THAT MATTER, FOR PEOPLE WHO MATTER, AND THAT'S NO MISTAKE

BACKGROUND

People living with dementia often experience loss of confidence and opportunities to contribute meaningfully. Our, hands-on programmes help maintain skills, connection and purpose.

Dementia Hawkes Bay developed The Workshop That Makes Mistakes – a safe space where participants can try, experiment and create without fear of failure.



IMPACT

Staff & Whānau have observed:

- ✓ Increased confidence
- ✓ Improved mood and engagement
- ✓ Stronger social connection
- ✓ Pride in contributing to community projects
- ✓ Maintenance of practical skills

ACTIVITIES

Participants work on projects such as:

- Bird feeders
- Wooden toys
- Seasonal decorations
- Community fundraising items
- Large collaborative builds

Projects are completed together with staff and volunteers in a relaxed and collegial environment.



Scan to watch the workshop in action

"Mistakes are not failures here – they are part of the creative process."





One participant who initially hesitated to use tools began by helping with small tasks. Over time their confidence grew and they now assist others and proudly demonstrate techniques. The workshop has become a place of laughter, banter, creativity, and shared achievement.



PLAY VIDEO

THE GOAL IS NOT TO MAKE PERFECT THINGS.

It is to create a place where people can still make choices, use skills, contribute, laugh, belong — and be proud of what they have done.

Thank you

Dementia Hawkes Bay



QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION

The Workshop That Makes Mistakes

Making things that matter, for people who matter — and that's no mistake.

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