

WANDER NEWS

WanderSearch Canterbury Trust Newsletter

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Trustee changes

Back in August 2019, foundation WSC Trustees Margie Sharkey and Allan Pritchard retired from the Trust board after nine years of totally dedicated service. Margie and Allan created the Canterbury service in 2010 after their experience in a Search and Rescue incident involving a young boy called Mathew. Mathew suffered from Autism, a condition which in his case, lead to him wandering. Margie and Allan felt strongly that vulnerable people like Matthew could be safeguarded from harm by wearing a tracking device allowing them to be found quickly should they go missing. At first the service was run on an informal basis but in 2016 after the client base had grown substantially, Margie and Allan, together with four other Canterbury people involved in Search and Rescue, formed a charitable trust under the name WanderSearch Canterbury.

The Trust's service was run on an entirely voluntary basis with both Margie performing the client servicing until mid-2018 when funding was found to engage a staff member part-time.

The WanderSearch Canterbury service is indebted to Margie and Allan who had the forethought to create this service and who dedicated so much personal time to its efficient set up and running.

New Trust Board

Please see page 2 for details of the new trust board.

Test your device battery weekly

All WSC client caregivers should have by now received a battery tester for their device. The manufacturer would like you to test your device's battery weekly to ensure it is working. This is because on rare occasions beacons can turn off with external magnets found in the home such as toys and appliances. Also, some users give the beacon such heavy use moisture can get inside and this can affect the battery.

Battery Frequency number

Last month our Volunteer team became aware that some clients thought that their device frequency number remained unchanged right from the first point of issue. However, the frequency of your device changes with each six-monthly battery change. At each change of battery your WSC representative will provide a card detailing the new number. Please store this card in a safe place in case you need to contact 111 if the person in your care goes missing. Providing the frequency number speeds up the 111 call process.

Wandersearch Canterbury Charitable Trust acknowledges and greatly appreciates the support granted by the following funders. This support enables us to help more families affected by cognitive impairment and wandering than ever before.



Blogg Charitable Trust



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Wandersearch Canterbury has a new phone number, please delete the old one from Margie's time and use 03-9070072. You must use the area code but the call is free.

Meet Our Wonderful Volunteers!

Along with Margie and Allan's retirement last year Neil Pritchard a key WSC volunteer, also retired. Neil was involved with the delivery of devices and tracking of both people and devices when they went missing! WSC is hugely grateful to Neil for his years of generous service to our clients.

Due to last year's retirements we put the word out through the excellent Volunteering Canterbury website that we needed some new volunteers to assist with device deliveries and battery changes. To our delight we found three very suitable candidates in Christine, Fione and Stew. Each one has been fully trained and assigned a geographical area of Canterbury to work in. If you have not yet met your volunteer you will do soon.



Pictured above Neil Pritchard, Christine, Fione and Stew

New WanderSearch Canterbury Trust Board members



Pictured above from left top Don Geddes (Chair), Nicki Dunn (Secretary-Treasurer), Dorian Crighton, Bill Dowle, Steve Davis, SGT Phil Simmons.

Existing Trustees: Don Geddes is Deputy Principal Rural Fire Officer (Ashburton), Dorian Crighton is an Accountant SGT Phil Simmons is Police Search & Rescue Coordinator (Christchurch)

Newly Appointed Trustees : Nicki Dunn is an Oxford Seach & Rescue member, Bill Dowle is from Canterbury Land Search & Rescue, Steve Davis is an IT consultant.

