



Settlers staff dressed for a night out at Café des Settlers.

We Loved 'Café des Settlers'

A couple of weeks ago, on a wet Friday night in Auckland, we found ourselves stepping into an intimate Parisian club and being transported to another place for two magical hours. The opening night of 'Café des Settlers', the latest production at Settlers Albany, was jaw-droppingly good.



Staged by Wyndup Productions, comprising Settlers residents Barbara Whineray, Dulcie Hyndman and Robin Davies, the show ran over three nights to full houses. Each performance featured over thirty performers, technical and backstage crew.

With the Eiffel Tower lighting up the stage, set designer Tony Gyde and sound and lighting team lead by Jim Tait, transformed Settlers Lodge into a typical Paris café.

Barbara, who enjoyed a professional career in theatre, says the show was inspired by her love of musical theatre and the songs of Edith Piaf, but evolved into a celebration of all things French.

So off we flew in a blaze of colour and satin with high kicking Can Can girls, songs including Thank heaven for Little Girls, I love Paris in the Springtime, C'est Si Bon, a rousing rendition of Alouette by the talented Bruce McPhail and weaving its way through the show, a 'Allo Allo' theme that made for a night of laugh-out-loud entertainment.

New CEO of the Premier Lifestyle Villages Group, Terry Middlemost, displayed remarkable comic timing in his Cleese-like interpretation of Gruber of 'Allo Allo'.

"I haven't been here long so it was a great way to meet many of the residents at Settlers."

The show was a culmination of months of rehearsals, set building, painting and costume making by an amazing bunch of dedicated Settlers residents including John Cornish who worked tirelessly on the Bold Gendarmes costumes.

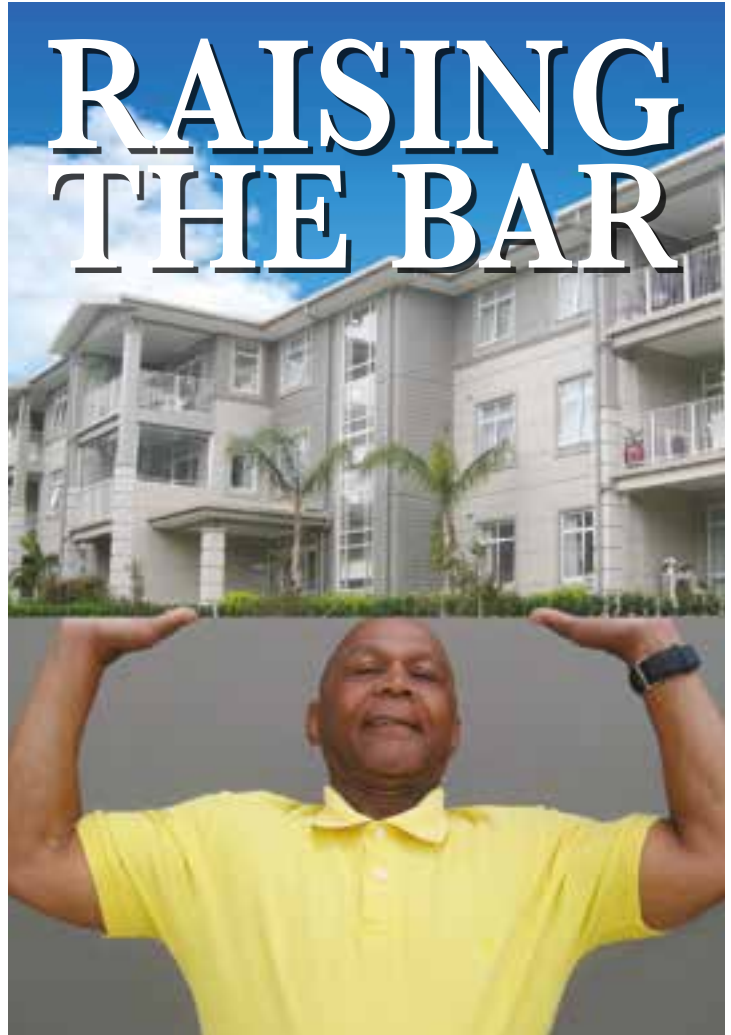
"That's the great thing about living here at Settlers Albany," says Barbara. "We draw people out and call on talents that may not have been used in a while."

Wardrobing, designing programs, supporting performers or manning the box office, you can be a part of it or you can be a spectator; either way it sure beats sitting home alone.

The performance received an enthusiastic standing ovation from the audience of over 150 including a very impressed Precious McKenzie and his wife who were front row the night we attended.

Magnifique! Encore!

Drop into Settlers Albany at 550 Albany Highway any day between 10am and 4pm and see for yourself how good retirement living can be. Or call Sales Manager Rosalie Pearson on 415 2617. ◀



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