

**Marle Worland**

Marle has been a long standing resident of Boort; she has been a widow for over 30 years. She did spend some time in Apollo Bay with her husband Fred following his retirement. Marle returned to Boort in 1983. She does not have any family living locally.

Marle had been struggling somewhat over the past couple of years with some age related health and medical issues but was doing “OK” and managing to remain living independently in her own home. This has been very important to her and something she really aspires to maintain.

This year Marle was sent to have a colonoscopy by her GP in Bendigo; the results were disappointing. A substantial bowel cancer was found and Marle then had to undergo major surgery in the form of a R) Hemicolectomy. This was done at St John of God in Bendigo and she remained for almost 2 weeks.

Although Marle was recovering reasonably well and her recuperation period progressing she was unable to return to her home as she lived alone. So it was decided that Marle could return to Boort District Health (BDH) and was assessed to access the Transitional Care Program (TCP) to assist her to get home with the support she needed for a successful homecoming. She has also been able to get back to day activities at BDH.

As she was on TCP Marle was able to be discharged earlier than expected. Through TCP she was able to access services in her home, which included Physio, exercises with an Allied Health Assistant, Occupational Therapy (OT), meals on wheels, home care assistance, podiatry and district nursing service (DNS) visits. Marle has expressed that Jo O’Bree the OT has been extremely helpful in making her life more comfortable with issues such as chairs and looking at a new bed and states “this helps me stay at home”. Furthermore Marle really wanted to express “how tremendous and supportive” the TCP service and hospital staff has been. She stated that she never had any issues and felt comfortable in her return home as any concerns were quickly dealt with efficiently by the TCP / DNS coordinator Tanya Buchanan.

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Marle concedes that even though she has a disease that can’t be cured she feels at ease with the services and staff she has been able to access through TCP and BDH. She feels confident she will be able to remain living independently through this support for a good period yet and as her health allows. She conveys that Tanya and all the staff have been extremely helpful and she has been advised that she just needs to let them know if she needs anything further, which may include but not limited to equipment if needed, dietary supplements, continence products, emotional support, which may include referral for counselling and personal care if needed.

