



Jenny and Peter Giddens (sitting) with the rest of the Richmond team from left: Sean Walton, Blair Josephs and Kerry Maher.

## SERVING SOUTHERN WAIRARAPA FOR OVER 40 YEARS

The importance of saying goodbye and the farewelling of a loved one in an appropriate way can never be understated, according to Funeral Director, Peter Giddens.

“Saying goodbye is the basic need of a grieving person. It can take many forms and does not need to include a traditional service. This final act of love, like other important stages in a person’s life, can be remembered fondly, if done well. Taking the time to talk to family/whanau and friends about your wishes and sharing your life story, while you can, is extremely important. It can be peace of mind for you and a comfort to your family that your wishes were known and carried out.”

Richmond Funeral Home previously owned by Denny and Norma Chew (D & N Chew Funeral Directors) together with Peter and Jenny Giddens have collectively cared for the families in the southern Wairarapa for over 40 years. It’s been the first place grieving families have turned to, when looking for guidance. After working for 20 years for Kings, Denny and wife Norma purchased the funeral side of the business from the King family in 1978. Founded by Daniel T. King in 1887, Kings had served the Carterton community well over the years. In 1980, Denny and Norma relocated to Richmond Road, Carterton, and Richmond Funeral Home was ‘born’.

It’s this solid history of service and community relationship which Peter and Jenny are proud to uphold. “The way a family is cared for in bereavement, will have an enormous impact on how they grieve and how they move forward in re-establishing their lives. Caring for people at this time is a tremendous privilege” says Peter.

Peter and Jenny have cared for families in the vast reaches of south Wairarapa and are well-known in the community. They have

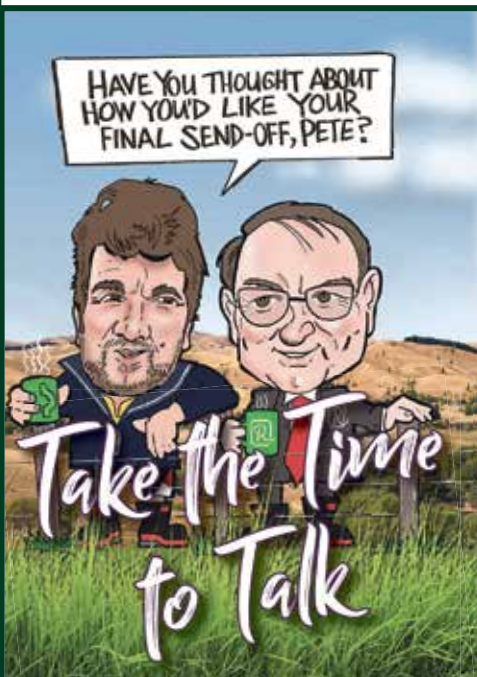
raised three sons in Wairarapa, and came to Wairarapa from Hastings, via Palmerston North. Peter is Gisborne born and raised, and Jenny grew up on a dairy farm near Patea. After purchasing the business from the Chews, Peter and Jenny established a crematorium at Clareville Cemetery in 2001 and in 2007 built the ‘Richmond Chapel’ beside the funeral home in Richmond Road. It features a stained glass window, seating for up to 150 people, up-to-date technology, kitchen and foyer area spilling out to an outdoor area.

In 2015 the addition of ‘Richmond House’ in Featherston further enhanced the services. Richmond House provides an office, viewing facility with after-hours access for families, and a lounge for small family farewells. The meeting area is available to community groups looking for a place to meet.

In 2011, they were joined by Funeral Director and embalmer **Blair Josephs**. Originally from Rotorua Blair has over 15 years’ experience. His previous occupations had been in mental health support and in the financial sector.

**Sean Walton** is a Funeral Director from Auckland who joined Richmond Funeral Home in December 2020. A qualified chef, he worked in hospitality for many years before becoming a bank manager. Ten years ago, he joined the funeral industry. An accomplished Toastmaster, he breeds Lhasa Apso dogs, follows the Australian V8 Supercars, loves motorcycling, camping and is big on family.

**Kerry Maher** is the part time Funeral Support Person assisting with the operation of the crematorium, keeping the hearses clean, and supporting the team any way he can. A former tour operator, his people skills beautifully suit his new role. To him, it is a privilege to be part of a caring team there to help at often a difficult time for all.



### What do your loved ones need when you’re gone?

Talk to one of the team at Richmond Funeral Home today to plan your meaningful farewell

### A meaningful farewell is your gift to them



Ph 0800 3797616

[www.richmondfuneralhome.co.nz](http://www.richmondfuneralhome.co.nz)

10-12 Richmond Rd, Carterton 06-379 7616  
‘Richmond House’, 2 Fitzherbert St, Featherston

Tried, Trusted and Proven ✓