



Waitemata
District Health Board

Best Care for Everyone

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Birthday surprise for centenarian at North Shore Hospital

Staff at North Shore Hospital's Ward 5 made sure one patient's very special birthday milestone got off to a memorable start on October 11.

Joyce Harper, 100, woke up to find herself surrounded by balloons and streamers – setting the tone for the rest of her day which included celebrations with friends and family.

The decorations were put up by staff quietly during the night while Mrs Harper was asleep.

“She was quite surprised and really happy by it all,” staff nurse Karl Bogue says. “She still had a big smile on her face a day later and was handing out the balloons to all of her young relatives.”

Mrs Harper featured in the *North Shore Times* in 2011 as the oldest player of the Takapuna-based Silver Strikes senior tenpin bowling side.

She was also a regular in television commercials and short films well into her 90s and only gave up driving when she was 95.

Son Ross says puts his mum's latest achievement -100 years of life – down to sheer determination.

“She has always been there for us giving advice and support and showing unconditional love – not only to her children but also her eight grandchildren and 18 great-grandchildren,” he says.

Caption: New centenarian Joyce Harper with her daughter Patricia Chatfield

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