

# Norna excited about sharing big milestone with family, friends

By LINDA FLETCHER

Norna King has no idea how she is going to celebrate her 100th birthday today.

"They haven't told me anything," she said. But she does know there'll be lots of her family arriving at Summerset to help mark her special day.

"They've all told me they are coming to visit. There's four families coming from the East Coast."

Born in Wellington on February 3 1912, Norna was one of seven children.

"I was right in the middle — two brothers and a sister above me and two brothers and a sister below. I had to learn to fight my way through."

Norna married Ron King, a building contractor, in 1934 and said she was lucky enough to always live in a beautiful home built or renovated by her husband.

Ron signed up during World War II but didn't get any further.

"He came out of the doctor's and said he was been kicked out because of his flat feet. And I said, 'thank heavens for your flat feet!'"

Norna and Ron were keen travellers, getting a taste for touring after taking a 'banana boat' around the islands.

"We got itchy feet after that. They were wonderful days."

They saw the sights in many countries and had an extended stay in England where they visited her parents' family.

"We travelled by ship in those days. I

loved the life on board the ships."

A keen bowler, the couple learned to play in Manakau where the couple had a dairy farm before moving to Tauranga.

She played for 32 years there — "I loved Tauranga, it was so warm" — and at the Levin RSA Bowling Club with oldest nephew Dick Robertson when she moved to Levin.

"I played until I was 96. I loved every bit of it. I played two or three times a week in Tauranga.

"And I played indoor bowls when I first came to Summerset, at the RSA and Reevedon. I enjoyed that too. They thought I was pretty good but I always had a good eye."

A widow for 20 years, Norna came to Levin to be nearer family.

She had a villa at Rosewood Park — "it wasn't finished then, they were still planting roses, they have so many glorious roses there" — and moved into Summerset four years ago.

"They're wonderful here, they look after me alright."

Norna's birthday surprise is a luncheon today at Summerset with 40 guests, mainly family, who are looking forward to celebrating with their aunt.

She has outlived her six brothers and sisters and, reflecting on her life, knows she is lucky to have nieces and nephews who care about her.

"I wonder where the years have gone?"



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**EXCITED: Norna King is looking forward to being surrounded by family to celebrate her 100th birthday.**