

# NORTHLAND NEWS

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The Northland  
Memorial Community  
Centre celebrates  
55 years  
1958 - 2013

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Northland Memorial  
Community Centre  
activities are supported  
by the Wellington City  
Council.

## Northland Community Preschool moves to their new home

A group of passionate and hard working teachers, parents and army engineer apprentices worked tirelessly together to build a beautiful purpose built facility for the Northland Community Preschool, and it is this wonderful sense of community spirit that makes the Preschool so unique.



Pictured left to right is CPL Ben James (Task 1C), Diana Johnson holding Tilly Bisley and WO2 Brendan MacDonald (SSM, 25ESS).

*'Thank you to everyone who helped to make this a special occasion. The preschool is planning a big community opening in a few weeks time to acknowledge all those who have helped us on our journey to 137 Mairangi Road.'*  
Head Teacher - Diana

In 1989 a small group of Northland parents identified the need for a crèche and worked tirelessly to make it happen. Prior to Mairangi Road the Preschool called the 'Northland Memorial Community Centre' home for 24 years, but the shared space environment did not fit well with new MOE regulations and it was eventually decided the best option was to find a new home.

So began the arduous task of funding, locating a suitable site, bringing the building up to code, resource consents, managing MOE constraints and everything else that a huge move like this encompasses.

The former Preschool licensee Kit Jackson's army contacts came to the rescue when the project stalled due to large building and resource consent costs. Linton School of Military 2nd Engineer Regiment provided free labour as a way to upskill their

apprentices, and finally after a long and sometimes difficult journey the Preschool moved into their beautiful new home on a sunny day in mid February.

It is through dedication, hard work and a passionate and committed community that this amazing goal has been achieved.

Many people have given time or money to contribute towards the Preschool move, local and further afield. Through the community centre alone, we have seen former families, current families, teachers, the army, Tinakori Lions, the NMCCC and WCC Councillor Andy Foster collaborate on this. A community opening is planned to thank everyone once the children have settled into the new centre.

The head teacher, Diana Johnson, was a driving force behind the move (she will be very uncomfortable with me saying this but I'm going to anyway because I have seen her pain, sweat and tears for the sake of the children in our community with my own eyes over the past six years). Her passion for the Preschool is infectious. No matter what the obstacle Diana never gave up, and she has spent countless hours working to ensure the dream centre became a reality.

Diana's kindness and strong community spirit nurtured a powerful partnership between parents and teachers, and they have been rewarded, following so much hard work, with a beautiful learning environment for their children and a wonderful sense of community pride and strength.

If you want to enrol your child in a not-for-profit community based preschool that puts families first then get in touch with Diana at Northland Preschool, they have limited spaces available.

Contact Diana Johnson by phoning 475 8062 or email [office@ncpreschool.co.nz](mailto:office@ncpreschool.co.nz)

by Angelina Kirk



**Grant ROBERTSON**  
Labour MP for Wellington Central

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# Northland Bus Proposals



Proposals for bus routes serving Northland have developed quite a bit over the last 12 months since Greater Wellington Regional Council (GWRC) released its initial bus network proposal in February of 2012. Officers and Councillors from GWRC have analysed over 6500 responses to the initial proposal, and followed this up with over 100 meetings with community representatives, transport operators and public transport advocates.

Some parts of the initial proposals for Northland bus routes were well received at community group meetings (such as the extension of the route to provide access to local shops at Crofton Downs). However terminating buses at Wellington Station and requiring all passengers to either connect between buses or walk down from The Terrace was not so well received.

Some people also took the minimum level of frequency shown in the initial proposal to be the actual level of frequency that would be provided, leading to fears that peak bus services would be reduced to a bus every 30 minutes. Lessons on communication have definitely been learned from this and we can assure you that such a reduction was never our intention.

Public feedback from the initial proposal and the subsequent discussions with community groups have been used to generate an updated bus network proposal which was adopted by GWRC Councillors in November 2012. GWRC is very grateful for the input from all the community groups that took time to participate in these meetings.

Since then GWRC staff have been working on draft timetables which incorporate detailed analysis of bus usage and demand. GWRC wants to ensure as far as possible services operate at the right times for most people so will be releasing draft timetables to community groups and other interested parties for feedback around Easter 2013 on these draft timetables.

## Current Proposal

- The existing mix of 13's 22's and 23's are proposed to be replaced by a single combined consistent all day Northland bus route which links Crofton Downs, Northland, Victoria University (Kelburn Campus), The Terrace, Wellington City CBD, Wellington Hospital, Newtown and Houghton Bay (similar to the current route 23).

- At peak times buses to and from Wellington are proposed to depart every 7 to 15 minutes with no reduction in the number of peak buses to or from Wellington compared with now. However some adjustment of bus times would be made to fine tune bus times to meet demand.

- At off-peak times during the day and on weekends buses would run half hourly during the day and hourly in the evenings similar to now.

- The route is proposed to be extended to provide Northland and Wilton residents access to shops at Crofton Downs, as well as the opportunity to connect with trains to/from Johnsonville.

- Options for using larger buses at busy times will be considered as an alternative to adding more buses when new bus contracts are let.

More detail of the proposals including route maps are available online by viewing the Committee Report on the Wellington City Bus Review on the Greater Wellington website at [www.gw.govt.nz/committee-meetings-calendar/detail/7053](http://www.gw.govt.nz/committee-meetings-calendar/detail/7053).

Further information will be published in local press in coming weeks.

## What about the route 13?

One question that is frequently raised is in regard to the current route 13. The route 13 is a peak time only bus route which provides a more direct route between Northland and Courtenay Place. Five trips travel into the city in the morning and three trips travel back in the afternoon.

There are definitely two schools of thought on the route 13. Some people specifically organise their routine around the bus and will time when they leave home or work to fit in with the route 13 and appreciate saving a few minutes of travel time. Others like the flexibility to be able to walk out the door when they are ready and appear to just catch the first bus coming, as the time taken to wait for the next route 13 can be greater than the time saved by taking the more direct route. Loading data shows this is especially pronounced in the afternoon where people tend to take the first bus coming on Lambton Quay rather than wait for a specific route 13. This suggests having frequent buses which reduce your waiting time and give you the freedom to travel when you want, rather than have to fit your routine around a specific bus departure, can be just as important as saving a few minutes once on the bus.

Some of the concern expressed about losing the route 13 we found was less about the speed of the route but rather based on an assumption that if the route 13 was removed there would be less buses between Northland and the city. We can assure you this won't be the case.

The timetable to be consulted on after Easter provides a high frequency of buses at peak times designed to allow users the freedom to walk out the door when ready with a minimum of wait time for the bus. ▶

## REGULAR DAILY ACTIVITIES AT THE NORTHLAND MEMORIAL COMMUNITY CENTRE

BADMINTON	Dagmar Hempel	475 7284	Thursday 7.30-9.30pm & Sunday 3-5.30pm
COMMUNITY LIAISON MEETING	Angelina Kirk	475 8511	Every second Wed of the month except school holidays. 11am
CUBS (Lower Hall)	Rob Wallace	972 5571	Tuesday 5.30-7pm
DROP IN CENTRE (Aged 10-14)	Coordinator NMCC	475 8511	Friday 7-9pm during school term
EZEE MEALS DELIVERY	Coordinator NMCC	475 8511	Thursday 9-11am
HARBOUR CITY ROCK 'N ROLL	Sue Mcleish	0276 118 357	Monday 7.30-10pm, Wed 7.30-9pm
HARBOUR CITY ROCK 'N ROLL HOP	Sue Mcleish	0276 118 357	Friday 7pm-12 midnight (4th Fri of month)
KEAS (Lower Hall)	Rob Wallace	972 5571	Monday 5.30-6.30pm
KEMPO MARTIAL ARTS (Aged 6-16)	Adam Lang	234 1477	Wednesday 6-7.30pm
MAH-JONG (Memorial Room)	Kath Kerr	475 8064	Thursday 1.30-4pm
MAH-JONG (Memorial Room)	Sylvia Goodwin	475 6136	Tuesday 7.30-9.30pm
NORTHLAND AFTER SCHOOL CARE	John Greenwood	934 3931	Monday-Friday 3-5.30pm
NMCC MEETINGS	Angelina Kirk	475 8511	Every 4th Thursday at 7.30pm
NORTHLAND COMMUNITY PRESCHOOL	Diana Johnson	475 8062	Monday-Friday 8.30am-2.45pm
RHEE TAEKWONDO	James Dempsey	027 229 1973	Tuesday & Thursday 6.15-7.15pm
SCOUTS (Lower Hall)	Rob Wallace	972 5571	Tuesday 7-9pm
SHAOIN-RYUKU (Aged 5-7)	Adam Lang	234 1477	Wednesday 5.30-6.30pm
TINAKORI LIONS	Catherine Pike	476 7140	Thursday 5.30-9pm (1st & 3rd Thurs of month)
WEA BOOK DISCUSSION	Sally Guinness	499 1212	Thursday 8-9.30pm (2nd Thurs of each month)
YOGA	Sue Field	499 7255	Thursday 9.15-10.30am
YOKUSAI KARATE	Colin Berry	475 9985	Sunday 8.30-10am
ZUMBA	Lorna	021 177 0685	Tuesday 9.15am

## New Brandon Street Services

Northland bus users have told us that in the afternoon buses can be held up travelling through the CBD. We are considering having a couple of extra buses to Northland depart from Brandon Street (by Kirkaldie and Stains) at say 4:55pm and 5.10pm.

Starting some buses from Brandon Street could offer commuters a more reliable option from the city departing at a guaranteed time, as these buses won't be caught in congestion travelling from Courtenay Place. As buses will arrive at Brandon Street a few minutes before their scheduled departure time, you can arrive a few minutes early and take a seat on the bus out of the weather before the bus departs.

Starting some buses from Brandon Street on a number of bus routes could help reduce bus congestion and improve the flow of all buses in the afternoon on routes from Courtenay Place. We will be very interested to hear your feedback on this idea.

If you have any further comments on the above please contact Angelina at the Northland Memorial Community Centre in the first instance as she has kindly agreed to collate feedback so it can be forwarded to us from one point of contact.



*Caring for your children as they play, learn and grow!*

Are you looking for **QUALITY** Early Childhood Education?  
**Northland Community Preschool** ticks all the right boxes!

- Our qualified teachers will **CARE** for your children as they **PLAY, LEARN** and **GROW!**
- High adult to child ratios.
- We provide a caring, stimulating environment.
- We provide a good balance between structured and free-play learning.
- We welcome children from 18 months to 5 years old and offer flexible sessions.

We are taking enrolments **NOW!**

For more information contact  
Diana Johnson by phoning 475 8062  
or email [office@ncpreschool.co.nz](mailto:office@ncpreschool.co.nz)

***Come and join us at our new purpose built preschool!***

137 Mairangi Road, Wilton, Wellington, ph 475 8062  
[www.ncpreschool.co.nz](http://www.ncpreschool.co.nz)

## We have moved and are open for business!

Thanks to our amazing and hard working community, our dream has finally come true! Come and join us at our very own purpose built premises at 137 Mairangi Road, Wilton!

The Northland Memorial Community Centre has been our home for the last 24 years and we would like to thank the NMCC team for their continued support throughout our tenancy and also during the relocation process.

In 1989 our journey began when a small group of Northland parents identified the need for a crèche and worked tirelessly to make it happen. Today, the teachers and parents have maintained this strong partnership and it's this wonderful sense of community spirit that continues to make Northland Community Preschool so special.

While our core hours and sessions will remain the same, we have listened to what our community needs and from term 2 will be able to offer extended hours to suit our busy families! The new hours will be 8am to 4pm Monday to Friday. Our morning sessions will still be from 8.30am—12.45pm and the afternoons from 12.45pm—2.45pm but with the flexibility of an earlier drop off and later pick up for those that need it.

We are taking enrolments and waitlist enquiries now, so please call us to discuss your needs or pop in for a visit and see our special preschool for yourself!

**We look forward to meeting you soon!**

## MESSY CHURCH AT ST ANNE'S !!!



### CHILDREN & FAMILIES WELCOME

St Anne's has its own Messy Church service. This meets once a month—on the 3rd Sunday afternoon of the month, in the hall & the worship space. 2-4pm

### What is Messy Church?

Being church for families who might want to meet Jesus, belong to their local church & bring up their children as Christians but can't cope with traditional Sunday morning church services. A once-a-month time of creativity, worship & eating together. It explores the Bible through:

- creativity (including a range of craft activities)
- celebration
- eating together
- all in an all-age context

## Coordinators Corner

I recently heard a representative from the Wellington Region Emergency Management Office (WREMO) speak to a meeting I was at. WREMO was launched in 2012 and their name speaks for itself. What stood out for me was a story that happened in Christchurch following the earthquake concerning a Civil Defence (CD) centre. The first person to arrive found nobody there, so he left and returned the next day. The following day a few people arrived to find the centre unmanned, so they went home. When they returned for a third day they were met by a local CD volunteer who had been delayed dealing with another situation - understandable and likely to happen.

The point is that if you arrive at a CD centre in an emergency and a volunteer does not show up and you wonder who is responsible, the answer is you. The purpose of the CD centres is to be a point of contact to relay information. If the roof has caved in on number 41 down the road and the water pipes are sticking out of the road then you report it to the CD centre, who radios the information through to headquarters.

In a major earthquake the trained CD volunteers in Northland might be having to deal with their own emergency and you might be the first one to arrive at the CD centre (located at Northland School). Don't panic though, help will arrive and meanwhile write down the information you know and have seen in the community (all CD centres have at the very least pens, paper and a radio), and if you have the knowledge to use the radio pass the info on.

Many people were shocked to learn that CD centres were just information hubs. Some people expected generators, water and blankets which is not the case (although some may do).

The thing we need to realise is that in an emergency we are it. The fire engines and the ambulances might not be able to get here, and we could be without water, power, and cellphones for days.

Northland does not have an active CD group and we need one. Please get in touch with me at the centre if you are interested in joining a group to help our community become resilient and prepared for emergency situations. The group will be coordinated through me and meet every second month at the centre (times and dates yet to be confirmed), the meetings will be friendly, casual, and informative.

For more information about emergency management go to the Greater Wellington Regional Council website at <http://www.gw.govt.nz>.

# KERERU KIDS



Jaxon and Edi loved the waterslide at H2O Xtream

Kereru Kids will be running a holiday program during the first week of the April school holidays. We have trained and experienced staff, are OSCAR and CYFS approved, and offer great value for money from as little as \$35 a day.

Check out the photos below, we had an amazing January program

Please email northlandmemorialcc@paradise.net.nz for an enrolment pack or more information.



Kereru Kids ready for battle



Maddie and Heather relaxing at H2O Xtream



Rakaia walking on water



Nes, Reuben and Eric cooling off at Lyall Bay beach

## Community Notices

**The Northland Memorial Community Centre Council is seeking a secretary** to join the team of volunteers who help manage the community centre. NMCCC meet every month (except January) on the fourth Thursday at 7.30pm (all welcome).

The meetings are usually finished by 9pm so the role requires very little commitment.

This is a great opportunity for you to get involved with your community and really make a difference. This role requires you to have access to email, enjoy the company of others, and an ability to see the funny side in life. You will be joining a lively team of community minded people like yourself.

If you are interested in this role and would like some more information then please email or phone the coordinator Angelina Kirk at northlandmemorialcc@paradise.net.nz or phone 475-8511

**The Friday Night Youth Drop In Centre** is back up and running in March. The first night is Friday 9th March. All youth aged between 10 and 14 are welcome. The cost is only \$2. We operate every Friday night during term time between 6pm and 8pm. Supervisors are on hand to welcome everyone. Supper provided. Contact Angelina at the community centre for more information.

**Large space available for hire** at the Northland Memorial Community Centre from as little as \$12.50 per hour! Now that Northland Preschool has moved into their new home the opportunity exists for hiring out the Lower Hall. The space is child friendly with an outdoor area, kitchen, toilets and office. Contact Angelina at the community centre for more information.



**Tinakori Lions** are off to a busy start to the year. We had a sale of second hand goods at the Lions Karori Carnival.

On Monday 22nd April we are putting on a mah-jong tournament at the Wilton Bowling club from 10 until 2.30. If you are interested in joining us we are setting up tables of four with an entry fee of \$25 per person. Lunch and afternoon tea is provided. The money raised is going to Ronald McDonald House. Please contact Catherine Pike for more details.

We had a successful outcome from our stall at the Thorndon Fair in December. The weather could have been better but we managed to sell nearly all our produce and raised more than we usually do.

The money raised has been given to the Northland Community Playcentre for equipment.

We are a small friendly service club. We have meetings every first & third Thursday at the Northland Community Centre at 6pm. If you would like to join us we would love to hear from you.

Please feel free to come and meet us at one of our dinner meetings.

Jean Marsden (Tinakori Lions Publicity Officer)

President Lion Catherine Pike 476 7140

Secretary Lion Elspeth Sanson 970 1905



**IAN McILRAITH**

Interior / Exterior  
Decoration

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