

Northland News

Northland Memorial Community Centre
northlandmemorialcc@paradise.net.nz
5 Woburn Road
Northland Wellington 6012
04 475 8511

**Celebrating 55 years
1958 - 2013**

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Northland Community Garden

Northland Memorial Community Centre is supported by Wellington City Council

Bunting & sausages in Bedford Street



The weather gods were with us as we held the second Bedford Street BBQ on February 2nd. The small piece of green was buzzing with mums and dads, children and babies from 4pm till about 7pm and I think we would all have stayed on longer had the sun not deserted us.

Geoff wheeled his trusty BBQ across the road and donned an apron, deftly turning sausages and chatting at the same time. Children played together, running in and out of an old tent we had put up, batting shuttlecocks about and nipping back to the food table for another handful of crisps.

How can an event fail to feel festive with a good swathe of bunting....thirty metres of

it in this case, strewn between the pohutakawa trees, fluttering in the southerly breeze. From tree to tree, then round the lamppost and back again. What a perfect way to spend a glorious Sunday afternoon, chatting to people in your street and getting to know their children as they dash around your knees and roll in the grass. With everybody's generous contribution of food and drink we all had quite a feast. Thank you to all who came and supported the event.

Next year, and I think there will definitely be a next year, I am thinking of having a badge that says "I'm at number 1, where are you?"

Clare Smith Stevens



Grant ROBERTSON
Labour MP for Wellington Central

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The Edmund Platt Story

Let me introduce myself – I am Edmund Platt and I was one of the first residents of Northland.

I was born in 1850 in Wandsworth, England. In Wandsworth I trained and qualified as a plasterer under Mr William Hook. In 1871 I married Eliza Wallis in her family church. Our first child was also called Edmund and was born in 1872, although he died as an infant the next year. We had two more children Walter and Alice when we decided to emigrate to New Zealand. In 1876, aged twenty-six I arrived in Wellington with my family on the ship Waimea.

By 1880 I had steady employment as an assistant plasterer with Jonathon Burton and Sons. I also owned a property in Ellice Street in Mt Victoria. Eliza and I had had two more sons – Henry, who was born in 1878 and Frederick (1879). In my first job with Jonathon Burton and Sons I cast the columns and capitals for Wellington's Supreme Court building. My daughters Florence and May were born in 1881 and 1883.

By 1884 I had become a partner in the firm. I was responsible for decorating the National Mutual Life Association of Australasia building on Customhouse Quay. The facades include details of urns, lions, masks, and fruit, along with decorated corbels, capitals and friezes.

The National Mutual Life building was one of Wellington's first masonry buildings. It is now part of the Old Bank Building complex so you can still admire Edmund's workmanship in the ornately embellished exterior today

In 1885 joy but then tragedy! Another son (Edmund) was born to us in December of that year. But Eliza died just a few days after, and then Edmund passed away in April of the following year.

In 1890 I was living in Creswick (as Northland was known then). I also decided to set up my own plastering business (Edmund Platt and Sons) in Molesworth Street, Thorndon. One of my first commissions was the decorative plasterwork for the Harbour Board Offices and Bond Store on Jervois Quay. Some of the other major commercial buildings Edmund worked on are now demolished but you can still see his work on the Wharf Offices, and the old Central Library building (now the Art Gallery).

However I could see that our small family firm needed to diversify. Plaster ornaments and large fibrous plaster sheets were being produced on mass. These could be purchased directly from merchants and installed by a builder – no need for our skills as plasterers. So in 1905 my sons and I joined the land and building boom and became Northland's first spec builders. We had purchased several parcels of land in the newly subdivided Pharzyn estate. Together Walter, Henry, Frederick and I set about building houses for our families and others in Northland.

How to tell if your house is a Platt house

Are you living in a house built by Edmund or his sons? 'Platt' houses are typical of the dominant housing style of the time – the villa - but have a number of modifications that distinguish them from others:

- *Concrete perimeter footings. It was common at the time to use timber piles for foundations.*
- *Plaster centre roses in some of the ceilings.*
- *Moulded plaster arches to separate the front and back halls.*
- *Embossed cornices decorating the living rooms and main bedroom.*
- *External embellishments such as sunburst under the gables.*
- *Highly decorative plastered chimney stacks.*



13 Farm Road

All four of the Platt family member's houses are now listed in the Wellington City Council District Plan and/or the New Zealand Historic Places Trust Register. 13 Farm Road is also protected in the District Plan and NZHPT Register. No details are recorded but we might assume that this is also a Platt house given its proximity to the others and the distinctive sunbursts on the front gables.



5 Farm Road

In 1902 we built 5 Farm Road for my son Henry. The photo above was taken of it around 1910 which was also the year Henry married his wife Amy. (His first wife Alice had died in 1907). This was a great site for Henry's house – it sits on a hillside adjacent to the Northland shops and is highly visible as you look down Northland Road.

Henry lived in this house for thirty-three years and Amy remained in the house until 1953. Today you might notice the finely plastered chimney projecting above the roofline.

A couple of houses down at number eleven we built Frederick's house in 1907. Frederick and his wife Emma lived there until 1946 when Frederick died. Emma continued to live in the house for another twenty years.

***Look closely behind the pohutukawa
and you can see the distinctive chimney,
and the elaborate decorations on the gable.***

Across the road at 10 Farm Rd we built Walter's house. We started work in June 1901 and it was completed in May 1902. You can see our names and these dates in the foundation stone. We decided to add in two Corinthian columns on the front porch along with decorative fretwork.

But the most distinguishing feature of Walter's house is the plaster lion reclining above the front gate. This gave the house its local nickname – Lion House. The lion is the one of three plaster lions that Walter and I made. The other two form part of the Memorial Fountain in Cornwall Park in Hastings. We built this fountain in 1911. The fountain was commissioned to commemorate the coronation of the Duke of Cornwall. We modeled the plaster lions on King Dick – the original lion at the Wellington zoo.



I myself lived around the corner from my sons at 73 Creswick Terrace. As you can see from the photo below it was one of the very first houses in Northland.

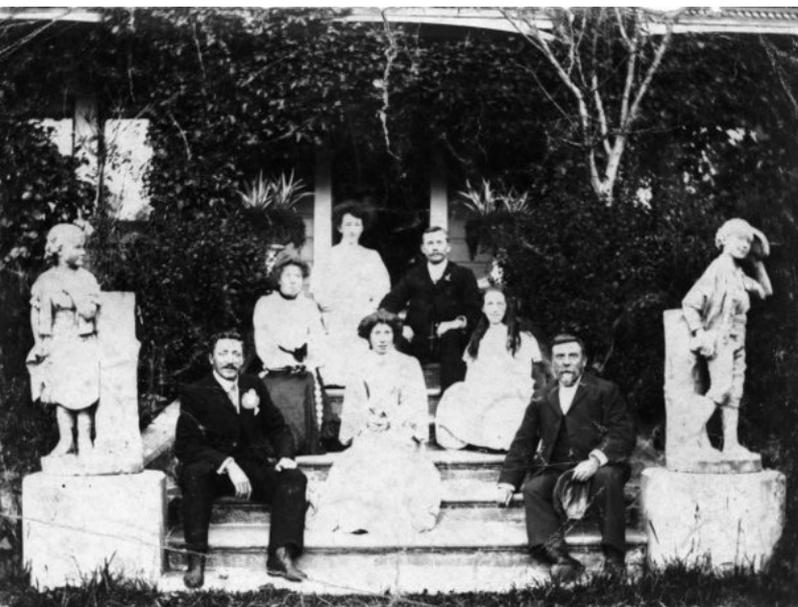


73 Creswick Terrace

*“safe through storms and earthquakes” knowing this is
“a solid and well built, loved family home.”*

Built at the turn of the century the house is now home to the Finlayson/Sharpes family. Recently Heather Sharpes talked about living in the house in the 21st century. The house still retains its beautiful and intricate plaster work Edmund was well known for. The main bedroom includes a central plaster ceiling rose and elaborate cornices. Over 100 years later and the original plastering in the bathroom is also still in great condition – a testament to the fine craftsmanship of the builder, and the love and care of the current and previous owners. In the bathroom Heather points out the meticulously detailed mosaic tile floor. She recalls her surprise when working at the Parliamentary Library discovering the same flooring there. We can only surmise that they were both the work of the same tradesman.

Heather remembers spotting the craftsmanship of the house when she, her husband Malcolm and young family were looking for a suitable house to buy in Northland. And it is the expertise and detail of the master tradesman she keeps referring to as we talk about the house. For example, as Malcolm and Heather have been renovating the house over the years they have lived there, they uncovered the original lath and plaster walls in several rooms – still with all the nails not even rusty! Heather says she feels “safe through storms and earthquakes” knowing this is “a solid and well built, loved family home.”



Here is most of my family sitting on the front steps of 73 Creswick Terrace.

This is me seated front right. Walter and his wife Emily are seated at the rear.

In the middle row are Alice Platt (Henry's first wife who died not long after this photo was taken), my daughter Florence (by then married to Edward Smith), and my youngest daughter May. Henry is seated front left.

As well as being a plasterer and then a builder I was also active in the local community. I was elected as a councillor to the Karori Borough Council several times. I was also a founding member of the local Anglican parish. In fact the first meeting to establish an Anglican Church in Northland was held at my house in 1904. I owned a site which I offered to the church and I also provided some of the money for purchasing the land. As soon as the money was guaranteed I announced that I would commence building the church. Our family also decided to donate an organ when the church (which became St Annes) was completed. Developments proceeded apace with a Mr Pearce contracted to prepare initial plans. When Mr Pearce did not front up with the plans I presented some alternative plans. The parish could not afford to build the entire church so we revised the plans and built only the nave and transept.



The foundation stone was laid in February 1905. In October of that year my son Walter became the first person to be confirmed at St Annes.

Later in 1906 I also offered for sale the site next to the church on which a Sunday School building was built.

Both these buildings remain today, both in private residential use. After Edmund died in 1927 a memorial plaque in the church was erected by the parishioners in his name. Truly a founding father of our suburb.

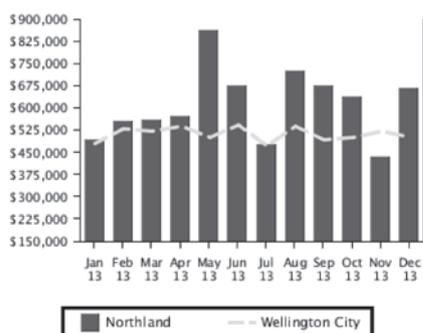
Researched and written by Erica Hodgkinson. If you have any more information about Edmund Platt, or more general information about the history of our suburb, please contact Angelina.

Like NMCC on **Facebook** to get the latest news and information about what's happening in the neighbourhood and surrounding suburbs.

Real Estate Update

The past twelve months have seen the sale of sixty-four properties in Northland ... quite a number for a suburb that only spans one square kilometre! Sale prices over this period range from the early two hundred thousands' (for two bedroom unit titled properties) through to approximately one and half million for a substantial family home with land and views. There have been four homes sell in excess of one million dollars over this past calendar year. Median sale prices have been consistently higher than Wellington City medians.

Recent Median Houses Sale Prices



Recent Median Houses Sale Prices

Period	Northland Median Price	Wellington City Median Price
December 2013	\$665,000	\$500,000
November 2013	\$435,000	\$522,458
October 2013	\$637,500	\$501,000
September 2013	\$672,600	\$491,000
August 2013	\$724,500	\$538,500
July 2013	\$475,000	\$470,000
June 2013	\$672,625	\$542,500
May 2013	\$860,000	\$500,250
April 2013	\$570,000	\$535,950
March 2013	\$560,000	\$521,500
February 2013	\$552,500	\$530,500
January 2013	\$490,000	\$480,000

Northland remains a very popular choice for home owners. Family homes in the area continue to sell well as a result of the popular kindergarten, local primary school, zoning for Wellington Boys and Girls Colleges. The proximity to the CBD, university, motorway combined with the good sun, views and or outlooks and large number of character homes also contribute to Northlands appeal.

Marcia Paterson
Just Paterson Real Estate

REGULAR DAILY ACTIVITIES AT THE NORTHLAND MEMORIAL COMMUNITY CENTRE

BADMINTON	Wally Potts	475 9359	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 6 - 8pm during school term
HARBOUR CITY ROCK 'N ROLL	Denis Thistoll	801 7552	Monday 7.30-9.30pm, Wed 7.30-9pm
HARBOUR CITY ROCK 'N ROLL HOP	Denis Thistoll	801 7552	Monthly 6.30pm-12 midnight
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)	Rosemary Tomlinson	475 8765	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
RHEE TAEKWONDO	James Dempsey	027 229 1973	Tues & Thurs 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	Joanne Innes	476 6133	Thursday 5.30-9pm (1st & 3rd Thurs of month)
BDS BOOK DISCUSSION	Don Thomson	475 7933	Thursday 8-9.30pm (2nd Thurs of each month)
YOGA/PILATES/CHI KUNG EXERCISES	Jen Brennan	027 954 4044	Thursday 9.15-10.30am
YOKUSAI KARATE	Colin Berry	475 9985	Sunday 8.30-10am
ZUMBA	Lorna Borrett	021 177 0685	Tuesday 9.15am



John W. M. Haywood
Physiotherapist (ACC referrals)

Patricia (Paddy) Sullivan
Natural Health Practitioner

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Community Notices



Tinakori Lions

We are a small friendly group and we meet twice a month on the **first & third Thursday** in the Northland Community Centre at 6pm.

Jean Marsden (Tinakori Lions Publicity Officer)

President Lion Joanne Innes 476 6133

Secretary Elspeth Sanson 970 1905

Every Fourth Thursday

This monthly social event will resume on **February 27**. Anyone is welcome, particularly if you are new to Northland and/or live alone, and enjoy company.

We meet at 11.30 in St Anne's Hall, have some conversation over a cup of coffee, and a little entertainment - perhaps one of Tony Dawbin's famous quizzes, or a short talk on a topical subject. Then share a simple lunch, and finish about 1.30pm. Food is provided, but there is a koha dish, if you would like to contribute.

Enquiries: Lorna McCullagh 475 8005

Deborah Broome 475 9085

Tony Dawbin 4753 247

Beauty SOS on Pembroke Road has a new owner, Briony Rose. Briony has been in the beauty industry for seven years and was working in a salon in the CBD for the past two years. You can check out the services she offers at www.beautysos.co.nz

Northland Community Preschool has a new head teacher, Carolyn Southcombe. The preschool will soon be celebrating its one-year anniversary at its new premises on Mairangi Road.

Montessori at Otari School is having a 21st Reunion on Saturday 10th May 2014.

West's Senior Rugby Preseason training for 2014 is already underway for but new players are always welcome. The club also boasts one of the largest junior rugby memberships in the country.

At Northland Scouts Jane Wild has taken over as the new Kea leader, filling in the very large shoes left by Jane Furnish.

Easter Services at St. Annes

The Anglican Parish of Northland-Wilton

www.st-anne-wellington.org.nz 04 475-9085

Palm Sunday – 13 April

9.30am Palm Procession and Eucharist – we gather outside and process into the church as we remember Jesus riding into Jerusalem surrounded by a crowd waving palms, welcoming him as King. “Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord”

Maundy Thursday – 17 April

6.30pm Last Supper: Eucharist with Foot washing, stripping of the church

With Christ in the Garden – overnight Prayer Vigil in the church

– we remember Jesus eating his last meal with his friends as we gather for dinner and wash each others' feet. After that, we share in the Eucharist together, as we recall Christ's offering of himself, and of bread and wine. At the end of the service the altar is stripped and we keep an overnight Prayer Vigil in the church

With Christ in the Garden – overnight Prayer Vigil in the church

Good Friday – 18 April

9.30am Combined Churches' Way of the Cross – begins at St Anne's and finishes at St Thomas More Roman Catholic Church, Worcester Street, Wilton

2.00pm Reflections and Prayers for Good Friday – we remember Jesus' trials and his death by Crucifixion

Holy Saturday – 19 April

7.30pm Easter Vigil – renewal of Baptismal vows and the first Eucharist of Easter. We celebrate Jesus' Resurrection with lighting of the new fire and the blessing of the Paschal Candle with the series of Readings, the Baptismal Liturgy and the first Eucharist of Easter

Easter Day – 20 April

8.00am Easter Eucharist – we rejoice in Christ's Resurrection and the new life open to all!!

9.30am All Age Easter Celebration – the 9.30am Service is particularly suited for children and families

2.00pm Messy Church – in the hall:

Celebrate Easter with us!



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Children & Families Welcome

Coordinators Corner



at St. Anne's

St Anne's has its own Messy Church service

This meets once a month
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**
- **eating together**
- all in an all-age context**
- **celebration**

Snippets of Neighbourhood News

People driving along Wilton Road by Ian Galloway Park will have noticed some extra classrooms at the edge of the playground at Cardinal McKeefry. The school is providing accommodation for some classes from Sacred Heart School during Terms 1 & 2 while earthquake strengthening is carried out on their site in Thorndon. While there are some adjustments to be made by both schools it is hoped that the benefits of sharing and interacting with another whole group of staff and students should be interesting and enriching for all those involved.

As part of their preparation for the new school year, approximately 100 staff members from six of the schools in the Western Zone took part in a professional development day held at Cardinal McKeefry School on 3 February. The day, with well renowned Nathan Mikaere-Wallis, involved a major presentation, questions and discussion on aspects of brain development and learning with some implications for the school and classroom. Nathan's skill, extensive knowledge and relevant anecdotes made for an interesting and challenging day.

If you still don't attend a regular activity at your local community centre, and you haven't visited us for a while then you really must come along and see all the fantastic work that is being done and what we have to offer.

Last year one of the first tasks the new committee set themselves was to hold a massive working bee, and with the hall floor repolyurethaned the centre looks like it's had a makeover for 2014. This is only going to improve when the interior is painted and work gets underway to redevelop the Lower Hall space.

NMCC offers many activities for all ages, and welcomes new groups needing a venue to hire. Perhaps you are looking for a place to hold your daughters 21st? Or your 50th wedding anniversary celebration?

The huge hall is the perfect place for children's birthday parties...there is heaps of space!
Only \$20/hour is great value for money
Get in touch for more information

Alternatively NMCC is a great place to start if you want to be involved with your community. We have regular community liaison meetings and NMCC Council meetings. In 2014 a Northland Resilience Business network was established, and our Facebook page is where to hear all the latest events and information. This year look out for information about the local resilience plan that a fantastic group of locals have been working on to help us all get through in an emergency. Information will be at the shop noticeboard, NMCC Facebook page, the new website and the Northland News.

Angelina Kirk

northlandmemorialcc@paradise.net.nz.

Get involved with your community in 2014
for recreation, community or social events

The Surrey Street Upgrade

Surrey Street play area
 The play area on the corner of Surrey Street and Wilton Road next to the bus turn-around area is to be upgraded in March. Work is anticipated to take six weeks to complete at a cost of \$75,000. Planned work includes: installation of new playground equipment, including a slide and tunnel, rock stepping stones, new trees and other landscaping seats and picnic table, new park entrance and fencing.

Northland Community Garden

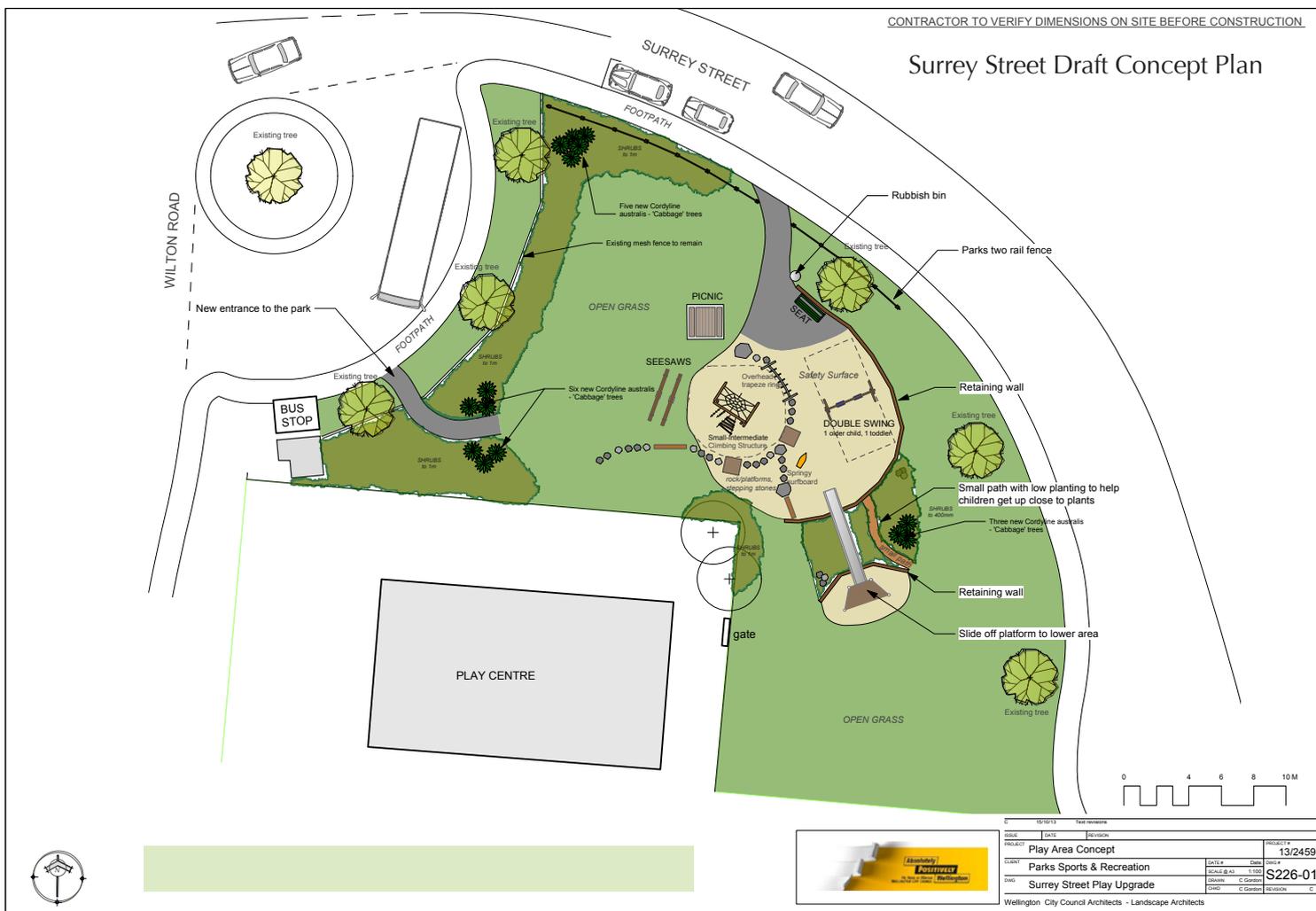
Ideas are underway to set up a community garden in Northland....watch this space!

Do you play Mahong?

Our evening mahong group needs more players! Come and join us for a convivial evening of play and chat at the Community Centre

TUESDAY EVENINGS 7.30pm - 9.30pm.
 Call Rosemary 4758 765 or Jill 938 993

Why not give it a go!



For more information check out the link below:

<http://wellington.govt.nz/~media/recreation/parks-and-reserves/files/surrey-street.pdf>