

Northland

News

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

**Celebrating 55 years
1958 - 2013**

What's inside

Take a walk with us



Thank you Stephen



Our local businesses



Neighbourhood News



Community bits & pieces

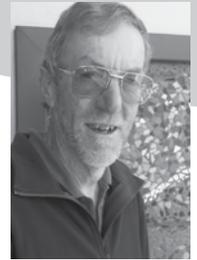


Fondly remembered

Northland Memorial
Community Centre
is supported by
Wellington City Council

Over and Out

In the same week that Shane Jones quit Parliament, Stephen Stewart finally stopped being a member of NMCC council.



After more than 20 years' service_ initially as a public member, then as secretary, vice president, president, vice president/secretary and finally president again _ it was time to go, he told the centre's annual meeting in May. The main reason, he said, was that the centre was now in the safe hands of a strong and enthusiastic management council after last year almost coming under Wellington City Council control.

After last year's AGM Stephen publicised the centre's plight in the Northland News, when resignations meant the NMCC's management committee no longer had a quorum. The public reaction was overwhelming, and the new committee was formed after a Special General Meeting in August. He stayed on to help guide new president Rhonda Richardson and other newbies in their new roles, and is impressed at the calibre of those involved. Now it's time to go, he says.

One of his main reasons for joining, more than 20 years ago, was to try to smooth difficulties over the sharing of the lower hall between the Northland Pre-School, Scouts and After School Care. He is sorry that the pre-school ultimately left, about two years ago, when restrictions on its operating hours meant it could no longer continue there.

"The pre-school was, for many people, their introduction to Northland and the centre and its departure was a sorry day," he said. "Still, it now has its own a custom-built centre in Wilton, and the good work with young lives that started here as a community co-operative goes on."

After school care and Scouts continue to flourish at Northland, and moreover the building is now in the best condition it has ever been in his time there. When he started, the floor in the main hall was unvarnished, paint was peeling, and the centre was cold and time-worn. This had happened because the belief had grown, over 30 years that the local community owned the building. Trouble was, the community did not have the funds to keep it maintained. The turning point came, ironically, when Plunket exited the rooms they had used for decades near the main entrance. The centre, faced with the need to generate income, converted the Plunket rooms into two rooms for a proposed massage therapy business. ("No, not 'that kind' of business!" he says hastily.)

Just before the lease was signed, then-president Pip Jackson discovered Wellington City Council in fact owned the centre. This was a big surprise to WCC as



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well _ it suddenly “acquired” a big asset, plus the responsibility for maintaining and upgrading the building. Its present state _ new roof, new exterior paint, new heating, new floor coverings etc _ are the result. And the massage business plan led to the creation of the offices where co-ordinator Angelina Kirk and assistant co-ordinator Sil Graham now work.

One of Stephen’s regrets is that his plan to rebuild the centre’s entrance, to make it more inviting, has never been realised because of successive financial constraints. He had also wanted to improve the halls acoustics. However, he is ever hopeful. A highlight of his time at the centre was the celebration of its 50th anniversary in 2008.

A lowlight is the still unsolved disappearance of Kaye Stewart, wife of previous NMCC committee stalwart Bob Stewart (no relation to Stephen), in Rimutaka Forest Park near Wainuiomata, in 2005. Stephen also admired the Walklin family, who had long links with the centre. They were his neighbours when he first came to Northland in 1981. Their two boys had cystic fibrosis _ Paul died at the age of 12 and is now remembered with the Scout memorial in the lower hall (“A Scout has courage in all difficulties”), while his brother Andrew beat the odds and survived until the age of 39, being recognised as a Kiwi Battler in 2010.

Andrew and his dad Doug (a computer and communications pioneer in Wellington) had long links with the centre, through Tinakori Lions. Doug’s death in April was especially sad, leaving wife and mother Margaret alone now.

On a brighter note, Stephen says the centre is now the best it has been in years, and its future seems assured “due in no small part to Angelina and Sil.”

“This place is the heart of the Northland community and vital for Northland School,” Stephen says. “Let’s hang onto it”

Sitting On the City

The awakening city pans out below us, a miniature version of what we see every day. Now we can truly comprehend the beauty of our city. From trees to the busy city, we can see every rise and fall that makes Wellington Wellington. Te Ahumairangi sits regally on our landscape towering above us and casting us in a shadow. The Wellington wind sweeps through our hair and whips our bodies. Up here, you can’t understand how someone could be afraid of heights. Up here, you are sitting on the city.

By Holly Hodgkinson, age 11, Northland School

A walk up our hill

Ko Te Ahumairangi te maunga.

**My mountain is Te Ahumairangi. Take a walk with us up Northland’s hill –
Te Ahumairangi.**

Start 1 **Outside Northland School**, corner of Northland and Harbourview Roads. Walk along Harbourview Road then take the path that dives down to the school tennis courts. Cross the tennis court, turn right and proceed downhill.

Stop 2 **Military Track intersection:** The path you are walking on connects Military Road with Garden Road but we are only going as far as the pedestrian cross roads. The Military Track was first used by local Maori to access the gardens that they had in the Northland area and also as a direct route through to Karori. In the 1820s when Ati Awa established a pa at Pipitea, they used the track to gain access to Makara Beach where they could launch their waka, and avoid the rips off the south coast. The earliest settlers to Karori and Northland also used the Military Track. For several years after Northland School opened in 1906 teachers had to make the daily climb up the hill from the final tram stop on Tinakori Road. The track was also reported to be a popular route for sailors deserting their ships in Wellington harbour, who would hide out in the scrub until it was safe to reappear back in town. From the intersection, take the pedestrian track on the left, up towards Seaview Terrace. Walk along Seaview Terrace, past Northland Park on your left. Across the intersection proceed up hill on Orangi Kaupapa Road.

Orangi Kaupapa was the name of the Northland area prior to Pakeha settlement. Orangi Kaupapa can be loosely translated as ‘floor of heaven’. It is also thought to mean ‘food terraces’. The area was extensively farmed by Ati Awa and included large communal cultivations. The hillsides were terraced and crops included kumara, potatoes, melons and corn. Even after the Town Belt was surveyed in 1840 many of these garden areas were still being used.

As you walk up Orangi Kaupapa Road take the driveway on the right hand side of the road that leads to Stellin Memorial Park. Proceed up the driveway to the viewing platform and information board by the car park.

Stop 3 **Stellin Memorial Park:** This adjunct to the Town Belt is a memorial to James Kingston Stellin. In 1944 Stellin died when he crashed his fighter plane near the French village of Saint Maclou la

Briere. When Stellan's father (James senior—a prominent Wellington business man and developer) died in 1964 he bequeathed this land to the Wellington City Council to create a memorial to his son.



James Kingston Stellan

The lookout was built in 1977, in 2007 a plaque was erected, and in 2010 a Scots College old boy funded an information board. (Stellan had attended Scots College.) From the Stellan Memorial Park lookout take the track up through the bush. You are now in the Town Belt with its many walking tracks. Continue on upwards until you arrive at another lookout.

Stop4

Te Ahumairangi look out: This lookout was opened in 2010 and includes fantastic views of Wellington, a fascinating information board, and welcoming picnic tables. The name Te Ahumairangi was restored to Northland's hill in 2009 as part of the Port Nicholson Block (Taranaki Whanui ki te Upoko o Te Ika) Treaty settlement. Prior to this the hill was known as Tinakori Hill. The hill came to be named Tinakori after the road along the base of the hill with the same name. Apparently workers who built the road were not allowed to stop for either lunch or dinner – tina = dinner, and kahore = none. Te Ahumairangi is said to mean variously whirlwind, sacred place, and the convergence between the sky and the land.



Te Ahumairangi look out

From the Te Ahumairangi look out continue walking up the hill on the formed roadway (closed to the public past this point) and then turn left towards the summit of the hill. You've made it to the top!

Stop5

The summit: The highest peak on Te Ahumairangi ridge has had many names – Mt Otari, Mt Wakefield, McCleverty Hill and Mt Etako. In 1912 the NZ Post Office wireless transmitting station was opened here. The stone building and 45.75m high aerial served as a coast radio station for shipping, aircraft and lighthouses, and also for New Zealand's international telegraph and telephone circuits. The strong winds tore out the original imported steel masts, and had to be replaced with stronger, locally made ones. Thus began Te Ahumairangi's telecommunications history.

At its peak Wellington radio covered 38 hectares along the entire length of the Te Ahumairangi ridge. There were 45 transmitting aerials, as well as staff houses, hostels and flats. In 1993 the transmitting station was closed and most of the buildings have been removed. Most of the land was returned to the City Council in 1998, and the Council acquired additional land in 2012.



Opening of the Tinakori Hill radio station 1912

During World War II six gun emplacements were installed at this strategic location to help ward off any potential invaders to Wellington. You can now choose to descend the hill back towards Northland by a number of track options, continue your adventure over the ridgeline by following the Skyline Track to Wadestown, or take the Stellan Track and the Northern Walkway on the city side of the hill towards St Mary's Street and the Botanic Garden. Thanks to the Northland School year 7 and 8 students, teachers and parents who provided the inspiration for this article. On a sunny early autumn morning, 87 children, ten parents, three teachers, and one younger sibling set off for a walk up the hill that provides the backdrop to our suburb. I hope you also enjoy the walk and the opportunity to sample some of the history and landscape of Northland. Erica Hodgkinson



Get to know your local businesses

We say hello, smile nicely in recognition, but do we know who the people behind our local shop counters?

Revolution Bicycles...Jonty Richards

Offers bike sales and repair services. Specialises in spec'ing and building custom mountain bikes, and works on road bikes and all bikes in general. Shop hours: Monday 11-4pm, Tuesday-Thursday 11- 6pm, Friday 11-7pm, Saturday 11-4pm.

What inspired you to open Revolution Bicycles in Northland?

It's close to home, affordable rent and not in town, as well as being a busy little area. Also it's nice to bring back some community to the community.



Jonty Richards

Who works in the store with you?

I have had various friends help from time-to-time. Initially my friend Selwyn was very helpful with setting up the shop and working occasionally. Alex has been a long-term part-timer and also had an unofficial internship for several years. Another friend Owen has also been a big help. There is the occasional guest appearance from Thomas.

What would be your favourite bike ride in Wellington?

Too many good rides to single out a favourite, so many good tracks all over Wellington.

Have you ever broken any bones bike riding?

Yes, a green stick collar bone fracture and in a separate incident several ribs and a punctured lung, when a car pulled out in front of me on Aro street. Considering the amount of commuting, mountain riding /racing I have done, I have been relatively lucky.

Do you think Wellington has what it takes to make mountain biking tourist destination?

There is potential to increase mountain bike tourism in Wellington. The Council would need to promote it, as they do in Rotorua. Personally I would like to see a lot more money spent on cycle commuting infrastructure.



From left: Nikki (with Bertie), Helen (with Rambo), John (with Julio) and in front Annelies (with Sugar)

Otis & Louis...Annelies

Otis and Louie have been in Northland for seven years now, and has 631 likes on Facebook, so where do your clients come from?

We have clients come from all over , Eastbourne, Kapiti Coast and even have some come from as far afield as Palmerston North. Most, we are happy to add, are local.

Was there an Otis and Louie that inspired the name for the store?

Yes, Louie is our dog and when he was a puppy his best friend was a little dog called Otis.

Who are the crew that work at Otis and Louie?

Our Grooming Manager is from California, Nikki has been grooming for 20 years in the USA. She moved here in 2013 with her son, Phoenix, who goes to Northland School. John is the Operations Manager, Helen the Bather/ Dryer and Day Care Manager, and Annelies Owner/Groomer/ Photographer.

There are so many gorgeous dogs... what are your favourite breeds?

Gee, we just love them all, big and small

What dog photo shoot stands out in your mind the most?

Over the years Annelies has photographed many, many dogs, with and without their owners. From well-known people like Dame Cath Tizard to families and their beloved pets.

People will be pleased to learn that in a civil defence emergency Otis and Louie offered to be the welfare centre for pets. What can people do for their pets to be prepared in an emergency?

Keep a good food stock on hand, and a really good idea is to have spare leads near the door and in the car. If a pet is in medication then it's very important to have that near the family emergency kit also.



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

Castaway Takeouts...Aki Onoufriou

(you may need him to tell you how to pronounce that!)

Your fish and chip shop used to be in Haitaitai, what attracted you to Northland?

The similarities of the communities – friendly people.

Who works in the store with you?

My business partner and long-time friend Tina.



Aki & Tina

What do Northland people tend to most commonly order?

Our delicious burgers and crumbed fish.

Is there a market for deep fried mars bars in Northland? Your Haloumi burger suggests we may be more sophisticated!

Yes, but unfortunately it would affect the quality of the oil and rest of the food. All our burgers are sophisticated considering I won "Best Burger" two years in a row in my previous business in Haitaitai. Haloumi is from Cyprus as am I.

There is some interesting "reading" on your shop walls. What is your favourite cartoon and why?

The guy hitchhiking with an axe – because it's funny.

What else keeps you occupied and amused outside of work?

Fishing and hunting. I am hoping to go deer hunting with my brother but it's difficult to get away when you run a fish and chip shop.

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Fondly remembered

Northland residents were saddened to hear of the death of former local identity Doug Walklin in April. For many years president of the Tinakori Lions Club, Doug was also a Wellington pioneer in computer cabling and satellite communications through successful businesses he established from small beginnings.



Doug Walklin

He and wife Margaret were active in many local and national events involving cystic fibrosis, an illness which afflicted their sons Paul and Andrew. Paul was a Northland Scout and his death at the age of twelve is remembered on the Scouts honour board in the community centre's lower hall. Andrew, who died aged 39 in 2013, was also in Tinakori Lions and was a junior cricket coach in Wellington. In 2010 the Morgan Foundation gave him a national honour as a Kiwi Battler.

Doug, a humble, inspirational and likeable man, was known throughout New Zealand through his cystic fibrosis and communications work, and involvement with Wairarapa's Sports and Vintage Aviation Club. He had a huge number of friends. His funeral was held at the Karori Cricket Clubrooms on April 10. He played a large part in the pavilion's construction and had been prominent in Karori hockey and cricket.

At his funeral one of his friends said,

"he was the sort of bloke that voluntary organisations could not exist without."

Doug, who was 79 when he died, had lived in Khandallah with Margaret and Andrew in recent years. He was originally from Christchurch.



Coordinators Corner

The Northland Memorial Community Centre Council held their Annual General Meeting in May. Rhonda Richardson was nominated as President. Those who know Rhonda will not be surprised that she has volunteered her precious time to help the community again. She has chaired various community boards such as the Northland kindy and school committees. When Jeremy Edwards, Northland School Principal, found out Rhonda was the new chair for NMCCC he made a point of saying to me "Rhonda is fantastic. She gets things done". Other nominations for the NMCCC were John Greenwood as Treasurer, Kate Barnes as Secretary, Sophie Low as Deputy President and Shona Brown as Grants Officer. Also on the committee is Liz Pfahlert, Tina Dome, Denis Thistoll and John Roberts. Without these energetic, passionate, generous locals volunteering their time the community centre would just be a hall for hire managed by the WCC. They write articles, attend working bees and meetings, apply for grants, initiate community networking ideas, help maintain the centre, deliver newsletters, update the website, generate bookings and numerous other jobs that help the centre tick over.

Stay warm
Angelina Kirk

To everyone on the committee, past and present included - thanks for making the NMCC a true community hub!

Looking for a party venue?

The Northland Memorial Community Centre has a range of spaces and facilities to suit your needs

from as little as \$12.50 per hour
(even less for a regular booking).

Our hall is a perfect space for people to get physical, especially as the weather turns colder.

Children's birthday parties are so easy at NMCC! Check out photos of the centre and details for hire costs on our website at

www.northlandcommunitycentre.org.nz



Northland School launches playground appeal

Many of you will have been sad to see the old iconic 'high' slide disappear from Northland Primary School's lower playground. It was much loved and had served several generations of children well but it did not meet modern playground safety standards and had to be removed.

The school has started raising funds for a new playground that will have a strong local identity, an iconic centrepiece and reflect the school and Northland community's history and character. Plans are at an early stage with work on a 'visioning' document under way.

The playground appeal's motto is 100% fun and we will soon be consulting with parents, students, and the wider Northland community on what form the new playground should take. More details will be revealed in the next issue. You can follow the playground's progress at www.northland.school.nz

Children & Families Welcome



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

What's on in the community



**Let's go to the Northland fair
...OK I'll see you there!**

10am - 3pm...yippee...yippee

**it's August 2nd
what do you reckon?**

It's already in my diary!



at Northland Community Centre

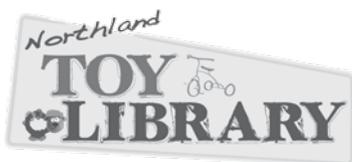
Plenty of stalls available.
Contact NMCC by email
northlandmemorialcc@paradise.net.nz

The Kereru Kids School Holiday Programme

will be running a fun and exciting programme in the first week of the July school holidays (7th-11th).

We are OSCAR and CYFS approved and amazing value from as little as \$35 per day!

For information please contact Angelina
northlandmemorialcc@paradise.net.nz.



The not-for-profit community library is open every Saturday morning from 9:30am and has a wide variety of toys, games, puzzles and costumes for loan to members with children aged 0 to 7 years.

Standard, duty free and grandparent memberships are available (discount available for community services card holders).

If you would like to join or want more information please contact

northlandtoylibrary@gmail.com,

come and visit us at St Anne's Church Hall on Saturday

or visit our Facebook page

www.facebook.com/pages/Northland-Toy-Library/512009632206314

Tinakori Lions

We are the local branch of Lions for Northland. We are a small group who meet twice a month on the first & third Thursday of the month in the Northland Community Centre at 6pm. if you are interested in joining us we are always looking for new members who are interested in fund raising for the local community. In the last few months we have supported several groups including Wellington Free

Ambulance, Guide Puppy Sponsorship, Wellington City mission, Oxfam, Birthright Wellington & donations to young people to assist them to attend Outward Bound Camps.

If you would like to know more contact:

President Joanne Innes 476 6133

Secretary Ross Sanson 970 1905

The Annual St Annes Parish Fair

will be held on
Saturday September 27th
at
Northland Memorial Community
Centre.

Thursday afternoon Mahjong Group

Tuesday Night Mahjong Group please contact Rosemary Tomlinson 475-8765

1.30 – 4.00pm on a Thursday

upstairs in the Northland Community Centre,
5 Woburn Road, Northland

We are a friendly group in need of new members – female or male.

Tuition is available for people keen to take up this interesting game.

If you think mahjong is for you please contact

Kath Kerr – 475-8064 or kathmkerr@xtra.co.nz

What do you think about the newsletter?

- How many people in your household normally read the Northland Newsletter?
- What articles interest you the most? Please rate from 1 (highest) to 5 (lowest)
 - local events
 - people in the neighbourhood
 - issues affecting the neighbourhood (council notices, transport or crime reports)
 - history of Northland
 - information about local businesses & services available
- What other topics or articles would you like included in future Northland newsletters?
- Would you like to continue receiving a Northland newsletter three times a year?
- Please supply your first and last name, postal and email address if you prefer to receive your newsletter by email
 yes, in my letterbox yes via email not really interested

Were you aware NMCC is on Facebook?

Post this survey back to Northland Community Centre at 5 Woburn Road, Northland 6012
 Alternatively go on line and complete this survey at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/GFYQ3K8>

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



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