

NORTHLAND NEWS

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The Northland
Memorial Community
Centre celebrates
50 years
1958 - 2008

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

IAN GALLOWAY PARK *The Facts Among the Fairytales*

If you live locally then you have probably heard Ian Galloway Park was Wilton Tip in its former life. You may have also heard that radioactive material from Victoria University was dumped at the tip in the 1960's. That alone is enough to make you question how dangerous the soil is at the home grounds of the West Rugby Club, and when you add the urban myths of explosions and fires, infected cuts and sores not healing after playing at the sports ground, and foul smelling gunk seeping through the soil you really do start to wonder if the grounds are safe.

So for all you rugby players and Kelly sport players, and for all those parents who wonder what toxic nasties are hiding under the soil at Ian Galloway here are the facts.

The Western Landfill, or Wilton Tip as it was known by, operated between 1946 - 1973. In 1964 the Wellington City Council approved the burial of the radioactive waste in Wilton Tip. The waste buried under Ian Galloway Park consists of three truckloads of furniture and equipment that was dumped following the discovery of radioactive contamination in the Victoria University physics department.

In August 2005 *The Listener* published an article by Rebecca Priestley who was writing a PhD thesis on New Zealand nuclear and radiation history. She reported in her article *Material Evidence* that historically most of New Zealand radioactive waste was embedded in concrete and dumped in the Hikurangi Trench, just east of Cook Strait. The physics department waste from Victoria University was of such high volume and low radioactivity, however, that landfill disposal was preferred.

Rebecca's article included the following statement "It is not likely to be harmful," says the National Radiation Laboratory's Jim Turnbull. "Most of the furniture will have decayed by now and the radium incorporated into the fill, where the radioactivity will be comparable to that of local soil."

The total level of radioactivity associated with the material dumped in 1964 was 500 microcuries – about the same amount of radioactivity that

could be found naturally occurring in 150 cubic metres of ordinary clay. However while organising the 1964 burial, the Dominion X-Ray and Radium Laboratory recommended that "arrangements should be made for the periodic collection of samples of groundwater flowing out below the rubbish tip".

When Rebecca contacted the Wellington City Council in 2005 they were surprised to learn of the radioactive dumping.

A thorough radiation survey of the park was performed by the National Radiation Laboratory in 2005. Paul Andrews, Wellington City Council Manager of Parks and Gardens reports "The results of the survey have indicated that the ambient radiation levels are normal with no evidence of any areas contaminated with radioactive materials".

When questioned as to how and when the ground is tested, and if there are any concerns with Ian Galloway he replied with the following statement. "Various testing and monitoring happens as part of managing the city closed landfills of which we have a number of. Most testing relates to monitoring any leachate that is produced by the landfill. This is to ensure it is not contaminating streams or natural water courses, we also monitor and test for methane gas and where required manage or control any gas produced. The types of testing undertaken include none intrusive testing (geophysical survey incorporating ground (cont pg 4)



Temporary roadway through Wilton Tip, Wellington, while the usual route along Wilton Road is straightened. Photo taken circa 24 May 1964 by an unidentified Evening Post staff photographer. ID: EP/1964/1698/3a-F

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COORDINATOR'S CORNER

The Northland Memorial Community Centre is owned by the Wellington City Council and managed for them by volunteers within the community. Not all community centres are run the same. Some are owned and operated by WCC, such as Tawa and Newlands. Some centres are owned and operated by the community, such as Hataitai Community House. Northland fits into the third model, the land is owned by the WCC and the centre is run by the community.

The Northland Memorial Community Centre Council is the name of the group who does this on behalf of the Northland and Wilton communities. They operate as an incorporated society.

The NMCCC is democratically elected, anyone is able to stand and represent the Northland/Wilton community. NMCCC see their role first and foremost as managing and maintaining a safe and financially viable community centre, through which the community is able to meet for recreation, information and consultation.

NMCCC have organised and supported community dances, Civil Defence open days, 50th birthday celebrations for the centre, the *Northland News*, youth drop in nights and school holiday programs, regular community liaison meetings, management meetings and many other things to try and develop, nurture and manage a community centre for activities that encourage community spirit through service and cooperation.

Like many voluntary groups they are always struggling to find new members to help on the NMCCC and at the moment they desperately need a secretary. Can You Help? All it takes is a few hours a month (we do not meet in December). The NMCCC run a professional, safe and financially viable community centre.

At the moment our Vice President is having to also be our Secretary, a role that could easily be done by someone who has good note taking and communication skills. Please come along to one of our meetings and see for yourself how much fun you can have helping your community!

The NMCCC meet every fourth Thursday at 7.30pm upstairs in the Memorial Room. All new members welcome, and so are visitors. The next meetings are on Thursday 28th June, 26th July, 23rd August, 27th September, 25th October and 22nd November.

TINAKORI LIONS

Tinakori Lions committee:

President Lion Catherine Pike 476 7140

Secretary Lion Elspeth Sanson 970 1905

Treasurer Lion Ross Sanson 970 1905

We are a small friendly Lions Group. We meet every first and third Thursday at the Northland Community Centre at 6pm. If you are interested in becoming a Lions member please contact us and you can come to one of our dinner meetings. Thank you for your support

- Lion Jean Marsden (Tinakori Lions Publicity Officer)



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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE NORTHLAND MEMORIAL COMMUNITY CENTRE COUNCIL

The Annual General Meeting of the Northland Memorial Community Centre Council was held on May 24th in the Memorial Room at NMCC. NMCCC were joined by representatives of the Creswick Valley Residents Association, Councillor Andy Foster, Roz Jackson from City Communities at WCC, Tracy Morrah, Property Team at WCC.

Tracy first addressed the meeting by answering questions the NMCCC had on the engineers report done on the NMCC building regarding earthquake strengthening. The report found that NMCC is not earthquake prone which would mean the building failed to meet 33% of the earthquake code. In a moderate earthquake the building is expected to perform well. The weakest part of the building was around 50% of the code. There are no plans to strengthen the building.

Following Tracy, the President gave his report, and so did the Treasurer. The accounts were presented.

NOMINATIONS FOR NMCC COUNCIL: All previous members on the council were nominated: President - Richard Blows, Vice President - Stephen Stewart, Treasurer - Bronwyn Donaldson, Grants Officer - John Bickerton. No Secretary was nominated. In 2011 Lesley O'Cain was nominated Secretary, a position she had held for many years. She tragically passed away in August last year.

WHY WE LOVE TECHNOLOGY AT SCHOOL

A few weeks ago my 10 year old came home from school delighted with himself. He had made a sign with a plastic board, wires and a battery at 'Tech'. It read Happy Mothers Day, and flowers had been stuck on the front which lit up when you turned the switch on. He explained how he had made it, the process of soldering and electronics.

The next week he made bread and we all tasted it at tea time. Perhaps, he suggested, he could make croissants in the weekend?

He brought back memories of my own intermediate years doing manual (1980's speak for technology classes) at school. Making pillowcases and pencil cases, eating scones and pizza that always seemed to taste better when made with friends. We were allowed to use complicated looking machines and large heavy tools in woodwork and metalwork. It was like a step up into the adult world, and I remember feeling immensely proud of being able to make something practical.

The basic principal of technology learning is to teach practical skills and engage students to develop models, products and systems. The following description is from the website of the Technology Centre at Karori West Normal School.

"Technology is intervention by design: the use of practical and intellectual resources to develop products and systems (technological outcomes) that expand human possibilities by addressing needs and realising opportunities. Why study technology? The aim is for students to develop a broad technological literacy that will equip them to participate in society as informed citizens and give them access to technology related careers."

Other than teaching all of our children practical skills for the future, technology classes are particularly important for students who struggle with literacy and numeracy but are confident practical learners.

Tech is a curriculum they relate to, and often excel in. Our future chefs and electricians, engineers, designers and builders will probably discover their future career paths in technology classes.

It is a fundamental layer of the New Zealand education system, like our number 8 wire mentality is an integral part of our social fabric. So it was a shock when the same 10 year old, who made the illuminating Mothers Day sign, came home with his school newsletter - the Karori West Technology Centre will close in 2013 unless the Technology Education funding policy in the 2012 budget is dropped (the Technology Centre at Karori West caters to eight schools in this area, including Northland, Otari and Wadestown).

My boys were confused and bewildered. "Why would they do that mum?" The kids were already planning a wacky hair day to raise money to save the Technology Centre. I felt so proud of our children I almost cried, and I say our because they are our children, our responsibility, our future. Children who deserve the same opportunities, if not better, than what we had at school.

There was a public outcry over the announced education policies in the 2012 budget. Our country is already suffering, especially our kids - many families don't have enough money to feed their children, healthy food and milk are considered luxury items; Child abuse and neglect is rife; and the amount of money spent on child health in this country is negligent.

Then, with all these problems facing our families and schools the National government tried to introduce changes that cut technology funding, teacher numbers and increased class sizes!

You don't have to achieve National Standards to know the proposed changes meant schools would be even less equipped to deal with our vulnerable children.

Eventually, after the outcry grew into an all out public threat, and Labour promised to reverse all changes, the National government finally backed down on its appalling short sighted policies.

The tweens and future tweens in our community rejoiced. The Tech Centre was safe.

By Angelina Kirk

COMMUNITY NOTICES

Kereru Kids will be running a holiday program during the first week of the school holidays. We have trained and experienced staff, are OSCAR and CYFS approved, and offer great value for money from as little as \$30 a day. We have an exciting program planned. Please email northlandmemorialcc@paradise.net.nz for an enrolment pack or more information.

The Northland News has recently been scaled down to three times a year instead of quarterly to save money on printing. In 2013 we would like to increase the publication of our newsletter but without increasing our costs, so we are creating an email list so people can receive their favourite community newsletter via email. You will still be able to pick up a copy from the local shops but to save trees and money we would like to deliver it personally to your computer! If you are unable to receive emails, and would still like your newsletter delivered then that too will be an option. However which way you would like to receive your newsletter, whether it's at the shops, via email or delivered to your letterbox please let us know so you don't miss out on receiving it next year. Email or phone the coordinator at northlandmemorialcc@paradise.net.nz or 475-8511.

The Friday Night Youth Drop In Centre is back up and running in 2012. 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. Supper provided.

NMCC is available for hire at very reasonable rates. The casual rate for hiring the main hall is only \$20 per hour and this is reduced if it is a regular booking. The Memorial Room which includes a sink, zip and oven is great value at \$12.50 per hour and the old RSA room seats up to 30 comfortably. The centre is excellent value for parties, especially children's parties where they can have space for games and running around. Contact the community centre for bookings.

Budget 2012 For easy to read information on the 2012 Budget check out the following link http://issuu.com/ruralwomennewzealand/docs/bulletin_aotearoa_2012_budget_special?mode=window&backgroundColor=%23222222

St Anne's Parish Fair - Saturday 22 September, 11am-2pm at the Northland Memorial Community Centre. Come along for books, plants, clothes, white elephant, children's toys and LOTS of yummy things to eat.

CRESWICK VALLEY RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

On a Monday evening in May the CVRA hosted a community meeting to discuss the Council's long term plan with our three local Councillors: John Morrison, Andy Foster and Jo Coughlan. The meeting was one of a range of services we hope to provide to the community, which will include building better civil defence preparedness, among other things.

Despite strong wind and rain we managed to pack the hall with around 35 attendees.

We spent around 45 minutes discussing the various components of the long term plan, and then opened the floor to other comments. There was a robust debate around the Eco-city proposals and Te Papa funding decisions, which were rounded off by a well received speech by Bruce Barton, a member of our committee, on community concerns about the competence and trustworthiness of the Council.

At the end of the meeting we asked everyone to 'vote' for different elements of the council plan, plus new ideas posed by members of the floor. This has formed the basis of our submission.

Many thanks to all of you who attended the meeting - I think the councillors found it useful and were genuinely surprised to hear about our lack of trust in the council. We made it clear that we expect the Councillors to hold the Council to account: as stronger accountability will drive better Council performance.

For more information on the CVRA please visit our website <http://www.cvra.org.nz> or contact us at creswickvalleyra@gmail.com

Paul Barker
Secretary, CVRA

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
<i>PILATES has now moved to St Annes Hall. For more information on classes please contact Katie on 976-0581</i>			
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

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Ian Galloway Park cont from Page 1

penetrating radar, electromagnetic and resistivity methods) and intrusive investigations (boreholes, soil, waste and water samples). The landfill and the landfill cap have been tested proactively and reactively for gas, total petroleum hydrocarbon, metals and species of infection.

From time to time some landfill do subside due to voids in the material used in the landfill or decomposition of material in the landfill. This subsidence requires the playing surface to be leveled again. This leveling has happened a couple of times in the last 10 to 15 years at the Park. Based on samples tested, there is no indication that Ian Galloway Park is more likely to be an area of concern for ground users than the other parks (former landfills) tested".

Paul also says "Most landfills are capped on the top with an impermeable layer of clay. This makes them challenging when managing as a sport field as no natural drainage exists and the topsoil is often shallow and of a poor quality. This often results in water logging in winter and ground closures. As far as Ian Galloway Park goes the Park is safe to use by the community and sport however it will have its limitation in winter. The field commonly referred to as the Cage, due to the perimeter fence surrounding it, is a high quality sand field with the majority of the playing surface not sitting over the landfill area."

It seems Wellington City Council, although belatedly, do regular and rigorous testing of Ian Galloway Park, above and below ground. Paul Andrews sent me all the information I needed the day following my email to him. They are satisfied there is no danger in the soil. Rebecca Priestly was also satisfied that the total level of radioactivity buried would not be harmful. You can find her article online at <http://www.listener.co.nz/current-affairs/science/material-evidence/>

The parks namesake now has good reason to be proud, Ian Galloway was a former Director of Parks and Recreation.

By Angelina Kirk



Grant ROBERTSON

Labour MP for Wellington Central

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