



Brooklyn
Community
Centre

BROOKLYN TATTLER

what's happening in your community

Community
Market
12-4pm
14 December



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This month's Christmas cover was designed by Sam Darlington.

February 2025 copy due no later than 5pm Tuesday 28 January

Email your contribution to tattler@brooklyncommunitycentre.org.nz

Brooklyn Tattler is published by the Brooklyn Community Association Inc. 18 Harrison Street, Brooklyn. Association members accept no liability for the contents which have been prepared in good faith. Printed by Pivotal.

from the COMMUNITY CENTRE

BROOKLYN COMMUNITY CENTRE
PHONE 384 6799

Ngā mihi nui kia koutou katoa - warm greetings to you all. Welcome to the December Tattler, the final issue for 2024; we take a break next month and return in February 2025.

We were saddened to hear of the recent passing of Brooklyn local, John Barnhill. For many years John was heavily involved with the Brooklyn community including as a past committee member of the Brooklyn Community Association. Our thoughts are with John's family at this sad time.

Twilight Festival

The weather wasn't quite as good as last year but that didn't stop over 3,000 locals coming down to Harrison Street to enjoy the food, entertainment, and market bargains at the second ever Brooklyn Twilight Festival. We were excited to help bring the festival to Brooklyn again and celebrate the awesome suburb Brooklyn is with our locals. Turn to page 7 for some photos of the day.

Market

Our Christmas market is coming up on Saturday 14 December from 12pm – 4pm. Lots of goodies and gift ideas – and rumour has it Santa will be stopping by on his way back to the North Pole. Come down and celebrate the end of the year with us and maybe grab a bargain or two.

Holiday Programme

Our January school holiday programme runs from Tuesday 21 January to Friday 31 January. Check our website for details and enrolment forms or email Adam at: childcare@brooklyncommunitycentre.org.nz

Thank You- Ngā mihi maioha

It's that time of year to again reflect and give thanks to everyone who helps keep the Brooklyn Community Centre the much-loved community

asset it has been for over 77 years – we couldn't do it without you. First, we would once again like to thank everyone who has contributed to the Tattler this year to help enable us to continue to bring you the latest community news. Special thanks go to our advertisers; Pivotal Print; and DIA COGS funding. Their support helps us to continue to offer free content to local groups and clubs. We welcome feedback and submissions anytime, so if you see or hear of something in the greater Brooklyn area that you think may be of interest, please let us know. We would also like to take this opportunity to thank WCC for our operational and ANZAC Day funding grants, and our local councillors Nureddin Abdurahman and Deputy Mayor Laurie Foon for championing the zoning change for the Community Centre back to Open Space after it was changed to Medium Density Residential earlier in the year. Thank you to DIA Lotteries, Vogelmorn Foundation, and the BRC Charitable Trust for their grants this year. Thank you to Sue Devereux and the Meals on Wheels volunteers who deliver meals which are dropped off here at the Centre. A huge thank you to Peter Cox who sorts out the plastic and metal lid recycling for us and takes it to the Sustainability Trust. Thank you to Graham from Packaging Forum and Tony from Earthlink for the continuing support of our food and beverage carton recycling. Thank you to Carl Savage and the Greater Brooklyn Residents Association for organising the battery recycling, scrap metal recycling, and aluminium can recycling. Thank you to all the people who have volunteered their time on a Friday afternoon to come and talk to our Friday Circle group, for some of the group this is the highlight of their week. A warm thank you to Dorothy Long for once again washing our towels and tablecloths. Last but not least, a huge thank you to you our community; you are the reason we are here. Thank you for supporting us by reading the Tattler, coming to our markets, and making the Brooklyn Community Centre the welcoming, inclusive, hub of activity it is.

We are proud to be here working with you and supporting you with childcare programmes; markets; recycling and sustainability initiatives; seniors' social groups; helping bring the Twilight Festival to Brooklyn; and by providing a fully accessible, welcoming, venue for local groups, one-off hires, and anyone who just wants to hang out, right here in the heart of Brooklyn.

On behalf of the Brooklyn Community Association (BCA) staff: Julie Seevens, Euan Harris, Adam Hendry, Phillip Bolton, Julia Smith, Sam Darlington, and the Childcare Supervisors; and the BCA voluntary committee: Sonya Bissmire, Joelene Skelton, Richard Lucy, and Chris Rabey, we wish you a very Merry Christmas and a safe and relaxing start to 2025.

Main Office Closes	20 December 2024
Main Office Reopens	21 January 2025
Childcare Office Closes	19 December 2024
Childcare Office Reopens and January HP starts	21 January 2025

Have a great Summer, Hei konā mai – goodbye for now.
Julie and Euan

CONTACT US

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market@brooklyncommunitycentre.org.nz

Main Office: 04 384 6799

Childcare Office: 04 385 0089



from the LIBRARY

Meri Kirihimete from Moe-rā Brooklyn Library!

December is upon us. Another year almost gone, and a busy celebration season about to start. It was a year that had two farewells - Helen and El, and two happy arrivals - Bruce and Rick.

Over the Christmas and New Year period Brooklyn Library will close at 1pm on Christmas Eve, and reopen on normal hours on Monday 6 January. Our after-hours slot will also be closed during this time.

If you're staying in Wellington over the festive season Te Awe, Kilbirnie, Karori, and Waitohi Libraries are open, on slightly reduced hours, on all but the statutory holidays. See wcl.govt.nz/visit/holiday-hours/ for details.



It's also the season for Wellington City Libraries' Summer Reading Adventure. These are themed adventures for kids (aged 5-13), teens (aged 13-18), and adults (aged 16+). Everyone's reading adventure is different. Once you get started, by creating an account on Beanstack, you choose how to play! wcl.beanstack.org

"A book is a garden, an orchard, a storehouse, a party, a company by the way, a counsellor, a multitude of counsellors." – Charles Baudelaire

And lastly, this Christmas turn off social media and read a book, you'll feel better. Let us recommend something to suit.

Katie Underwood

THE QUIET ACHIEVER

Portrait: Thea Underwood / iStockphoto.com | London: Alamy.com / iStockphoto.com



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BROOKLYN RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION INC.

brooklynresidentswellington@gmail.com
www.facebook.com/brooklynresidentswellington



Monthly update on issues and projects involving our community

NEXT MEETING – Wednesday 19 February 2025

Brooklyn Community Centre, 18 Harrison Street - Come and have your say and look at contributing

Battery recycling

GBRAI have initiated our own local battery collection project in conjunction with the very successful Brooklyn Community Centre plastic and metal bottle top and food and beverage (eg. Tetrapak) container recycling, with the intention to divert them from the landfill. From October 2022 to mid-November 2024, GBRAI have collected and recycled 305kg of various battery types. The most numerous are: 1) 158 kg of AA batteries; 2) 49 kg of AAA batteries; 3) 23 kg of D batteries; 4) 23 kg of 9V (lithium) batteries, as well as other assorted types

SUCCESS - Land under the Community Centre rezoned back to Open Space

SUCCESS! We are pleased to report that GBRAI & BCA successfully challenged the WCC re-zoning of the land under the Community Centre which was re-designed as “Medium Density Housing”. After being spotted by Brooklyn stalwart Perry Aspros, GBRAI & BCA and our two city councillors put pressure on Wellington City Council (WCC) officers to change it back. Officers reported back to the WCC Infrastructure Committee (17/09/2024) who agreed to return the zoning to Open Space.

Brooklyn Festival – Saturday 16 November

Despite some changeable weather, the Brooklyn Twilight Festival was another success this year with over 3,000 people attending the event. GBRAI had a street stall, we enjoyed engaging with the wider community and encourage more people to join the Association.

Brooklyn cycleway / Brooklyn Connections (up Brooklyn Road)

GBRAI have been informed by Wellington City Council officers dealing with the cycleway that any decision on its further rollout has been put on hold. This is pending a full WCC councillor decision mid-2025. Essentially, the city is broke and out of money, is reassessing all projects, and the Brooklyn Connection decision made by WCC has simply been delayed.

Southern Landfill expansion -Southern Landfill Extension Piggyback Option (SLEPO)

Further Community Advisory Group meetings were held with WCC (and various associated groups) late in November, with the extension plans well under way. Update: old Stage 2 landfill closed and capped; 5 of 7 management plans: Sediment control, Stormwater control, Wetland management, Landfill liner & Flocculation (water treatment control) for SLEPO (new landfill) have been submitted and been approved. Final approval likely to be granted in 2025, construction beginning in mid / late 2025 and the SLEPO extension / expansion completion planned for 2026.

Email us your ideas, queries or concerns, please contact us at:
brooklynresidentswellington@gmail.com - www.facebook.com/brooklynresidentswellington





THE BRC CHARITABLE TRUST

formerly The BRC Society Inc

brooklynresourcecentre@gmail.com

The BRC Charitable Trust was established at the beginning of 2021 and held its first funding round in March the same year. The organisation has had strong ties with the Brooklyn community for over 40 years and has undergone a number of changes during that time.

As far back as 1978 it was proposed to purchase a house and establish a resource centre for the Brooklyn community. Set up at the time by the Lions Club of Brooklyn, the Brooklyn Resource Centre (a converted house in Jefferson Street) was opened in August 1983 to provide a base for voluntary workers and health and welfare representatives, as well as an information and “homely” drop-in centre. Relying heavily on the help and support of volunteers to begin with, it was eventually part-funded by the Wellington City Council and later operated with two part-time employees. Community organisations like District Health nurses, social workers, a chiropodist, St John’s, and Plunket, used the premises as a base, and groups of local residents were able to use the facilities as a meeting place.

Over the years the focus and nature of the community changed, the number of groups and people accessing the premises declined, Wellington City Council withdrew its funding and the organisation had to reassess its position in the local community. It was also becoming costly to maintain the building and keep up with the outgoings. After much deliberation, it was decided the time had come to change direction.

A decision was made to sell the Brooklyn Resource Centre premises, invest the proceeds, and continue operating its core programme, the Friday Circle, at St Matthew’s Church. About this time, the organisation changed its constitution to reflect its changing role and was renamed The BRC Society Inc. It was later decided to transition to a grants-based organisation to benefit a greater number of people in the wider Brooklyn community.

Wednesday Circle continued at St Matthew’s Church for several years before it was sold. Brooklyn Community Centre took over the running of the group reverting it back to the original Friday Circle. The legacy of the original organisation, now known as The BRC Charitable Trust, has become a funding body in the local community. Two funding cycles are held at the same time every year - one in March and the other in September.

The BRC Charitable Trust

BROOKLYN
twilight festival

Photo credits: Guido and Tom Seevens



BROOKLYN WELLNESS HUB

Happy Healthy Christmas

<https://brooklynwellness.nz/>

Myth: Christmas is the happiest time of the year.

Reality: It can be stressful and exhausting. Let's change that.

Exhaustion - So much to do and not enough time!

Being organised well ahead of time helps a lot, but sometimes we can't do it all. To avoid burning out so we can enjoy the season we may have to let go of expectations and choose to do less. Make time to sit down, list what you need to do, and then get ruthless. What really needs to happen, what can be delegated, and what's a nicety you could let go of, just this year? Do we need so many special Xmas foods on the table? Can I buy less gifts? Do I want to go to every function I'm invited to?

Financial - Extra demands when money may already be short

Culling your "To Do" list might already save you money. A game changer for us is the Xmas present game. We buy for the children, but not the 15+ adults. Instead we each buy two secret Santa gifts worth \$20 (this could be less) which go in a pile on the floor. We draw to see who starts first. That person is first for round one, and last for round two. Person one picks a present, and unwraps it. Person two can choose a new gift, or pinch person one's gift and person one draws again. Person three has two gifts and the pile to choose from. As we go around the room, some gifts change hands

several times, and there's a lot of hilarity. At the end of round one, those presents are now safe, and we go back the other way. At the end, there's usually some swapping to keep everyone happy. One rule – always contribute something you know at least one person will like. In our family, \$20 packs of scratchies are popular, and least favoured are boxes of chocolates.

Emotional - Family problems rearing their ugly heads

One DIY tool for managing difficult situations is Emotional Freedom Technique (EFT). It's easy to learn and very effective. Drop into the clinic any Tuesday in December and we'll give you a handout, and show you how to use it for your specific Xmas stresses. Or visit our blog.

Dietary – The challenge of healthy eating

It's difficult enough for anybody to eat sensibly over Xmas, but if you have special needs of any kind it's even harder. Take something yummy and suitable for you to any party, and on Xmas Day. My Easy As and compatible with any special diet Xmas Cake is one example, and is in this Tattler. We've compiled some healthier Xmas recipes on our blog.

See the detailed article on our blog at www.brooklynwellness.nz for more information on EFT, more recipes, more ideas, and links to other resources. The BWH drop in clinic is at BCC on Tuesdays from 10.30am to 12.30pm, up till 17 Dec.



EASY CHRISTMAS CAKE FOR ALL DIETS

This cake is very forgiving and can be made GF, DF, EF, starch free or refined sugar free. Because it's a boiled cake, you don't need to mature it for a month. It will improve with maturing, but can be eaten the same day, and still be delicious.

Take a large pan, and melt together:

- 1/2 cup water
- 1/4 cup brandy, rum or extra water
- Juice of one orange
- Rind of the orange, plus rind of a lemon, finely grated
- 170g butter or coconut oil
- Up to 1 cup sugar, preferably coconut or unrefined (You can replace with other natural sweeteners such as honey or stevia, but add those after boiling and cooling, just before the eggs. For a lower sugar/carb diet, you can leave out the sugar completely – I do!)
- 2 tsp mixed spice & 1 tsp ginger

Finely chop:

- 900gm dried fruit. Use a packet mix, or choose your own favourites

Add to the pan and simmer for 5-10 minutes, stirring often, until the fruit has soaked up all the liquid (though some of the oil may not soak up, especially if using coconut oil). Leave to stand for 30 minutes, while you prep the tins and the rest of the ingredients.

Line a 20cm x 20cm square tin with a double layer of brown paper, which comes to about double the height of the tin. Then line with a double layer of baking paper.

Sift together in a large bowl, and mix well:

- 1 tsp baking soda
- 1 cup ground almonds
- 1 cup flour (For GF use your own favourite mix)

Beat up:

- 3 large or 4 small eggs

When the fruit mix has cooled to lukewarm, stir through the beaten egg. Then stir through the dry ingredients. The mixture should be a thick batter and quite hard to stir. If it's too runny, add a little more flour. Spoon the mixture into the pan, and bake at 150C for 1.75 - 2 hours. Use the usual skewer test, or listen - when it stops sizzling, it's ready. (Optional: Before cooling, pierce small holes in the top of the cake with a skewer, then carefully pour 2 tablespoons brandy over the top).

Cool completely before removing from tin. Wrap in some baking or greaseproof paper, then in a tea towel and store in the bottom of the fridge.

Recipe by Deb of the Brooklyn Wellness Hub. For more info on different variations (eg. egg or starch free) or how to make smaller sizes, see our blog at

<https://brooklynwellness.nz/2024/11/10/easy-versatile-xmas-cake/>



what's on at your BROOKLYN COMMUNITY CENTRE

18 Harrison Street

WEEKDAYS

**BEFORE SCHOOL
AFTER SCHOOL
HOLIDAY**

**CHILDCARE
PROGRAMMES**

Contact Adam Hendry, Childcare Programme Manager. Phone 385 0089 or email childcare@brooklyncommunitycentre.org.nz.

9 AM PILATES

Contact Faye Tohbyn on 022 054 2369 or fayetohbyn@gmail.com

10:30 - 11:30 AM FELDENKRAIS

Improve your movement, posture & breathing. Contact Toni McWhinnie on 021 1782056 or email temcwhinnie@gmail.com

6 - 7:30 PM BROWNIES

Contact Margaret 389 3028 or email marrexj@gmail.com

MONDAY

9 AM - 12 PM

**TABLE
TENNIS**

Open to all ages and ability. Tables, bats and balls provided. Contact Philip on 021 230 4083 or email: codwgpdl@gmail.com

9 - 10:30 AM

**EARLY
CHILDHOOD
MUSIC**

For Tamariki aged 0 - 3 and their whanau. Contact Ahna Jensen on 027 775 8534 or email: ahnasmusicstudio@outlook.com

10:30 AM - 12:30 PM

**NATURAL
TREATMENT
CLINIC**

All welcome for natural treatments of acute and chronic conditions, relaxation, anxiety and stress support. Free B/P assessments and advice.

6 - 8:30 PM

**ST JOHN
YOUTH**

Penguins: 6 - 7pm. Cadets: 7 - 8:30pm. Contact Ross Young on 021 264 0440 or email ross.young@stjohn.org.nz

TUESDAY

10 - 11 AM

FELDENKRAIS

Contact Toni McWhinnie on 021 1782056 or email temcwhinnie@gmail.com

5:30 - 7:30 PM

KARATE

Grasshopper Karate to Advanced Karate classes. Book your free trial class. Contact Sensei Patricia at www.familyfitkarate.co.nz/contact or 027 297 6049.

7:30 - 8 PM

**CARDIO &
CORE**

A 30-mins strength workout for busy people like you! Contact Patricia at www.familyfitkarate.co.nz/contact or 027 297 6049.

WEDNESDAY

**8 PM TABLE
TENNIS**

Inquiries Philip on 021 230 4083 or email: codwgpdl@gmail.com.

WEDNESDAY

10 AM - 12 PM

**CRAFT
CONNECTIONS**

Fortnightly crafters social group. Contact Louise email: louisebrockway.nz@gmail.com

5 - 6:30 PM

KARATE

Beginners' to Advanced Karate classes. Contact Sensei Patricia at www.familyfitkarate.co.nz/contact or 027 297 6049.

6:30 - 7:30 PM

TAI CHI

Contact Ferne on 389 1433 or email: ferne.david@xtra.co.nz

THURSDAY

9 AM PILATES

Contact Faye Tohbyn on 022 054 2369 or email: fayetohbyn@gmail.com

11 AM - 2 PM

**FRIDAY
CIRCLE**

Seniors Social Group, meets weekly for light lunch and activities. Contact Euan Harris, details at bottom of page

FRIDAY

10:30 - 11:30AM

YOGA

Weekly one hour classes in the hall with Ale Figueroa. Contact Ale on 021 033 2049 or email: shiningsoul.nzar@gmail.com

12 - 4 PM

**QUARTERLY
MARKETS**

Next Brooklyn Market on Saturday 14 December from 12pm to 4pm. Email: market@brooklyncommunitycentre.org.nz to book your stall.

SATURDAY

9:15 AM

**BROOKLYN
ANGLICANS**

Our one hour service starts in the hall at 9:30am. Contact Rev. Scottie Reeve at scottie.reeve@gmail.com View online www.brooklynanglicans.nz

10:30 AM

**EKKAALLAM
CHURCH**

Tamil Christian worship and service. Contact Robert tec.wgtn@gmail.com or 027 858 9916

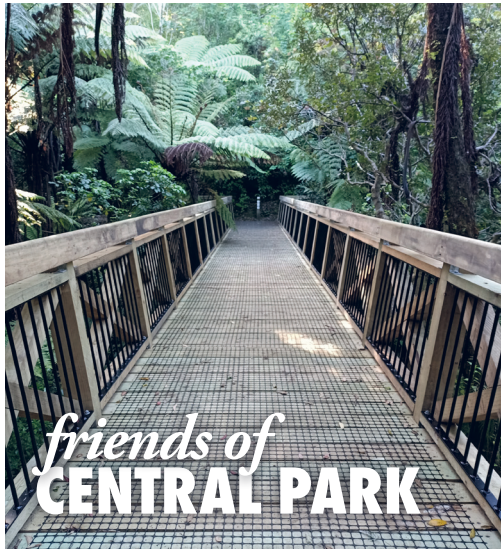
SUNDAY

4 - 6 PM

KARATE

Grasshopper Karate to Advanced Karate classes. Contact Sensei Patricia at www.familyfitkarate.co.nz/contact or 027 297 6049.

To book Brooklyn Community Centre for classes, groups or events contact Euan Harris on 384 6799 or coordinator@brooklyncommunitycentre.org.nz



Bellbird Bridge

The concrete bridge over Moturoa Stream in Central Park has re-opened. Hurray!

During restoration planning, the council found the original drawings for the bridge and discovered it had a name: Bellbird Bridge.

Early pictures of the park show Bellbird Bridge spanning an ornamental lake with very few trees around. We think the name might have been aspirational. With no sightings of bellbirds in the area that we know of, we wait in hope that bellbirds might make their way into the park like other native birds have.

In November, we hosted walks through the park as part of the Wellington Heritage Festival. It was lovely to meet people, share what we've learned and to learn new things from park visitors. Not necessarily happy things. For example, by the 1870s, only 30 years after Wellington received its first settlers from the UK,

the local streams were so polluted that it was decided to direct them underground. The report on stream quality was made by James Hector, New Zealand's first government scientist. Happily, Moturoa Stream was reasonably healthy the last time officials checked.

If you'd like to learn more about Central Park, join our monthly working bees. We provide delicious Supreme coffee and baking. Bring your own mug and gloves if you have them.

Working bees are the last Sunday of the month between 10am – 12.30pm

Check <https://www.meetup.com/upstream/> for confirmation.

Contact Lynne at all.whites@xtra.co.nz

TREE DOCTORS

BROOKLYN www.livingplanet.co.nz
0800 4 TREE DR.
971 8583

PROFESSOR PATCHES EYES UP NEW HOME

This friendly gentleman is bright and active at 17 years old, and all he wants for Christmas is you!

Professor Patches is impossible to miss when you visit the CPW shelter because he just loves attention. He uses furniture to get to the level of your face so he can make meaningful, adoring eye contact.

He came into the CPW shelter when his elderly owner had to go into care, so he's missing having that special person to dote on. He's curious, talkative, confident, and would suit a home with no other pets so he can soak up all the attention he needs.

Patches recently had a growth taken off his chest, so he has a few stitches at the moment



– which he's been very good about leaving alone! He is hyperthyroid, so he's on meds and eligible for our Care for Life foster programme.

He's a big fan of the outdoors and loves to explore, so he needs a safe area where he won't get into trouble. If you're looking for a loyal, loving best friend, make an appointment to meet Professor Patches this weekend!

Read more about CPW at catsprotectionwellington.org.nz. Follow us on Facebook, Instagram and YouTube for pictures, stories and videos of cats in our shelter.

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ST JOHN BROOKLYN



Its that time again when the year comes to an end and to reflect on what's happened in 2024.

There has been a lot of success within the Division where the Penguins Year 1-6 has had an exciting increase in numbers with the Senior Cadets assisting them with their progress.

We are always pleased to see new members and encourage parents or caregivers to come along on a Tuesday evening at 6pm at the Brooklyn Community Centre to see what we do, it's a lot more than first aid and a lot of fun. Karen and Lynne as Leaders love working with this group and a huge thanks to them for the amazing job they do.

The St John cadets have again flourished, and when attending camps or competitions shine. The number of successes is truly amazing and so often at prize-giving St John Brooklyn Division is mentioned. Although it's not all about winning, it shows the dedication and enthusiasm within the group. Several of the cadets have received promotions during the year, congratulations to their efforts and success in their achievements and passing on their skills, knowledge, and experience to others.

People often ask, what do you do at St John and what does it involve?

Here are a few facts:

- The Cadet Program provides opportunities for youth to gain valuable knowledge and skills and build confidence and help pave the way in a transition to adulthood.

- We hold national camps as well as focused activities, these can be a weekend away from home where Cadets get to know and make friends or renew friendships in a new environment.
- As a Cadet, you'll take part in a full and interactive programme, learning first aid skills, working towards your Grand Prior's Award, volunteering at events, and developing skills to prepare for the future.
- Learn first aid, leadership, and life skills alongside your best mates! Our cadets meet once a week each term to learn together, connect, and most importantly, have fun.

Have you thought of assisting in this amazing programme for both Penguins and Youth?

You may well be who we are looking for and a few hours a week can be a very satisfying and enjoyable experience. If you know of anyone who would like to be part of St John Youth or Penguins please pass this message on and contact :

Karen, Assistant Divisional Manager on 0274046343.

Ross, Divisional Manager on 0212640440.

You are welcome to come along to a meeting night and see what we do.

Finally, a special thanks to the Brooklyn Community Centre for their assistance in the Brooklyn Area for 75 Years.

Have a safe and happy Christmas and see you in 2025

Ross.

Brooklyn Divisional Manager 0212640440

DISASTER INNOVATION RESEARCH AND TEACHING

DIRT (Disaster Innovation Research and Teaching) is an initiative based at Vogelmorn co-led by locals David Johnston and Sophie Jerram, learning how to become better prepared for a significant earthquake, extreme weather, or other disaster scenario that could leave us without the energy, networks, and communications we are used to.

In July The Playful Revolution staged "Disaster Theatre" at Vogelmorn as we role-played the experience of an 8.6 earthquake centred in the Wairarapa leaving us without power, water, and gas. This interactive event let people practice sharing resources, skills and food,

care for each other, build toilet facilities, and consider receiving, and sending information. It was a fun way to confront and think about some of the serious challenges we could face if this had been a real situation.

Following that we have had regular afternoon meetings at VBC on the last Sunday of the month. So far we have talked about/looked at making emergency toilets, how to get to know your neighbours so you can support each other in an emergency, how we could communicate if the phone/internet/tv/radio networks are down. These are relaxed, fun, very welcoming and about building up our individual and community capability. All welcome. On 26 January from 4pm - 6pm at VBC we'll be facing a very important issue if we've lost power, gas, and water - how to make a decent coffee! There will also be emergency tea, hot chocolate, and food making.

Come and learn with us and help your community get prepared.

for more info, visit fbcarton.recycling.kiwi.nz

Brooklyn Community Centre
18 Harrison Street, Brooklyn, Wellington 6021, New Zealand
brooklyncommunitycentre.org.nz



BELL ROAD ORIGINS

Sir Francis Bell, one of Wellington's most distinguished early citizens, has a rather ordinary street named after him. Bell Road, on the eastern slopes of Brooklyn, is named after the man who was Mayor of Wellington, Crown Solicitor, and briefly, Prime Minister.

Bell, a first-class cricketer in the 1870s was mayor for one term in the 1890s and had two stints as Crown Solicitor. He was Prime Minister for 16 days after William Massey's death in May 1925 but, when offered to take the role more permanently, he declined. Bell was a lawyer, and one of the people who formed the law firm Bell, Gully & Izard, still in the forefront of law today.

The 800-metre street winds up through the hills of Brooklyn, linking Bidwill Street and Heaton Terrace. It is like an oasis of green belt between two areas thick with houses and apartments. Though Brooklyn was developed at quite a rapid pace, Bell Road remained in pristine condition, with virtually no buildings.

The Brooklyn Northern United Association Football Club originally formed in 1949 as Institute Old Boys then merged with Northern Club in 1972 and had its clubrooms at Number 2 Bell Road until the early 2000s. The site was handy, being adjacent to Nairn Street Park and Prince of Wales Park. However, the clubrooms fell into disrepair and rather than undertake an extensive redevelopment, the club

moved to better premises elsewhere. As the building then sat empty and rundown for a number of years afterwards it was demolished in 2022 and the site cleared. It was planned to use the area for storage and fill when the Bell Road Reservoir was earmarked for replacement, but nothing further developed from this.

The gully above, to Heaton Terrace, was known by early residents as 'Jam Tin Gully', due to the amount of tins of jam and other food products found there in years gone by. A path halfway up connects Bell Road with Dorking Road, and another path connects with Prince of Wales Park further down.

Chris Rabey



Friday Circle
SOCIAL GROUP FOR SENIORS

Brooklyn Community Centre
11am - 2pm Fridays

Tea/coffee on arrival
Light lunch

Activities include:
gentle exercise, guest speakers, quizzes, bingo and movies

CONTACT EUAN FOR DETAILS

Brooklyn Community Centre
A. 18 Harrison Street, Brooklyn, Wellington 6021, New Zealand
P. 04 384 6799
E. coordinator@brooklyncommunitycentre.org.nz
W. brooklyncommunitycentre.org.nz



Community Market
12-4pm
14 December

SOAP
Jewellery / Crystals / Resin goods
Home baking / Pies / Toasted sandwiches
Vintage goods / Knife sharpener
Pickles & relishes / Pottery
Knitted & Crocheted toys / Baby Knits
Christmas bags & sweets / Art
Cutie Pie Pet Products & Gifts
Access Bars Sessions
Jersey Junction Football shirts & Accessories
Eco Products

SANTA
3pm

Brooklyn Community Centre
A. 18 Harrison Street, Brooklyn, Wellington 6021, New Zealand
P. 04 384 6799
E. market@brooklyncommunitycentre.org.nz
W. brooklyncommunitycentre.org.nz



From all of us at the
Brooklyn Community Centre
we wish you and your whanau a very
Merry Christmas
& a happy, peaceful 2025

P 04 384 6799
A 18 Harrison Street
W brooklyncommunitycentre.org.nz

Brooklyn Community Centre



BROOKLYN BROWNIES, GUIDES AND PIPPINS

Pippins (5-7 years) brooklynpipkins@outlook.com
Brownies (7-9.5 years) brooklyn.brownies@gmail.com Guides (9-12.5 years) brooklynguides@gmail.com or visit <https://girlguidingnz.org.nz/>

BROOKLYN FOOD GROUP

Local food and community. Working bees held weekly on Monday evenings from 5:30pm to sunset at the Brooklyn Orchard on Harrison Street. thebrooklynfoodgroup@gmail.com or www.facebook.com/BrooklynFoodGroupNZ

BROOKLYN GARDEN CLUB

Meets 1st Wednesday 7:30pm from March to October. New members and visitors welcome. Contact Kathleen Skudder on 027 650 9108 or email: kathleen.skudder@gmail.com

GECKOS HOCKEY CLUB

Years 1-4 and new entrants Fridays 4pm-5:15pm. Years 5-8 Tuesdays 4:15pm-5:15pm. Tanera Park Bowling Club astro turf. Just turn up on practice day <http://brooklyngeckoshockey.weebly.com>.

LIGHTHOUSE CHURCH

Sundays 11am-12:30pm Ridgway School Hall, 120 Mornington Road. Contact Avia 021 1096457. Email: aavia123@gmail.com Find us on Facebook.

BROOKLYN LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

Next meeting on Saturday 25 January from 2 - 4pm at Brooklyn Library. We'd love your input or queries. Please contact the convenor in case our advertised date or venue changes. Sharon Macintyre 0276344455 sharonmacintyre42@gmail.com

BROOKLYN MAINLY MUSIC

Fun affordable 30 minutes, for parents or care givers to enjoy with their pre-schooler(s). Morning Tea provided. We meet Wednesdays at 10am during school terms.

Wellington Reformed Church

34 Harrison St. Maria 022 187 9030

BROOKLYN NORTHERN UNITED JUNIOR FOOTBALL CLUB

First Kicks enrolments for girls and boys aged 5 and 6 open throughout the season. Email enquiries to info@bnujfc.co.nz or register online at www.bnujfc.co.nz/registration

BROOKLYN PLAYGROUP

Fun group for parents & caregivers with preschool children. Meets Tuesdays and Thursdays 9:30-11:30am during the school term at the Korean Church - 184 Ohio Road. Turn up on the day.

BROOKLYN SCOUTS

Scout Hall, Harrison St. Scouting is for boys and girls who love adventure.

Keas 5-7 yrs, Cubs 7-11yrs, Scouts 11-14yrs, Venturers 14-18yrs. Financial Support available. Find out more at www.brooklynscouts.org.nz or contact John Morrison on membership@brooklynscouts.org.nz

BROOKLYN SMALLBORE RIFLE CLUB

Ages 14+ Sundays 6.30pm-8pm mid-March to early October at the Royal Tiger Range, 131 Russell Terrace, Newtown. To join contact Dianne Grain on 0274 449 641 d.grain@xtra.co.nz www.bsrc.org.nz

BROOKLYN TABLE TENNIS

9am-12pm Tuesdays and 8pm Wednesdays at Brooklyn Community Centre. We welcome new members of all ages and ability. Tables, bats and balls provided. Phone Philip on 021 230 4083.

BROOKLYN TOY LIBRARY

The Toy Library is based in the Vogelmorn Precinct at 93 Mornington Road. We have a fantastic range of toys for children aged 0-7 years available to hire. Find us on Facebook or visit our website: brooklyntoylibrary.org.nz

BROOKLYN WALKERS

Meet Monday mornings (except public holidays) outside Brooklyn Library. Phone Deborah 934 2238 or Lindy 027 356 5037.

2 December – Around the

Bays to City walk. Start at 10am from Kilbirnie Bus Hub.

9 December – Central Park Tracks to the Christmas Party. Start at 10am from Brooklyn Library.

16 December – Johnsonville to Ngauranga. Catch 10:02am train from Wellington Railway Station.

23 December – Petone Esplanade to Lower Hutt. Catch 9:48am No. 83 bus from Railway Station.

30 December – Seatoun to Lyall Bay via Pass of Branda and Breaker Bay. Catch 9:58am No.2 bus from Unity Books on Willis Street.

BROOKLYN CRICKET CLUBS

Tanera Park off Tanera Cres. Junior Age 4 + www.bjcc.co.nz
Senior 1 Day, T20, Vintage www.brooklyncricketclub.com

FRIENDS OF OWHIRO

STREAM Working bees on the second Saturday of the month 10am-12:30pm. Contact Martin on 389 8995 or email: owhirostream@gmail.com

PREDATOR FREE BROOKLYN

Hello Kaka, goodbye rats! We're looking for volunteers to host traps on their properties. If you'd like to help email predatorfreebrooklyn@gmail.com

RATA PLAYGROUP

Calm and nurturing place for babies and toddlers 0-3 years to explore, learn and socialise

with a parent or family member. Morning sessions available at Capital Montessori, Camrose Grove, Kingston. montessori.school.nz/playgroup or email rata@montessori.school.nz

THE KUNG FU SCHOOL

Learn Shaolin Kung Fu for self defense and functional fitness. Wellington Swords Club Building, 2 Tanera Crescent, Brooklyn. Contact Rob Young on 021 408 521 or wellington@shaolinkungfu.co.nz www.shaolinkungfu.co.nz

ST JOHN PENGUIN AND YOUTH DIVISION

Penguin Program 6-8 yrs. Karen Don 027 404 6343 Youth Division 8-18 yrs. Ross Young 021 264 0440 www.stjohn.org.nz

TURBINE TALKERS

TOASTMASTERS CLUB
Your local chapter of Toastmasters International. Tuesdays 7:15pm-9:15pm fortnightly at the Reformed Church on Harrison St. Sam Day 022 436 8715, Sylvie 022 197 3610 turbine@toastmasters.org.nz <http://6879.toastmastersclubs.org>

UPSTREAM – FRIENDS OF CENTRAL PARK

Working Bees from 10am-12:30pm on the last Sunday of the month. Contact Lynne White at all.whites@xtra.co.nz Come along for great conversations, meet new people, delicious morning tea and contribute

to the care of Central Park. **SCRABBLE WELLINGTON**
Wednesdays from 7pm upstairs at the Vogelmorn Precinct, 93 Mornington Rd. All abilities welcome! Contact Nick Ascroft on 022 675 1399. Email: nick_ascroft@hotmail.com

VOGELMORN TENNIS CLUB

VogelmornTennisClub.com
Fun exercise for all abilities. Give tennis a go at the best little tennis club in NZ. Club days, competition and coaching available. Call in or email secretarylvtc@gmail.com

WELLINGTON SWORDS CLUB

By the Tanera Park bowling greens off Tanera Crescent. Contact Vicci Lamb - Head Coach. Phone 970 7496 or email: bishop.lamb@pistingaround.com

BROOKLYN PLAYCENTRE

22 Harrison Street Ages 0 - 6 years Mon to Thurs 9am - 12:30pm. Contact brooklynplaycentrenz@gmail.com or call 027 700 1363.

COMMUNITY POTLUCK

At Two Todman on the last Thursday of the month from 7pm. Everyone welcome. Please bring something to share. Find us on Facebook or visit www.twotodman.org.nz

CRAFTING THREADS OF AROHA

Community knitting group meets in the Penthouse Cafe at 11am on the last Saturday of the month. Contact Katherine on 021 203 0022 or ka.harris25@gmail.com.



