



Western Community Centre ANNUAL REPORT

1 July 2017 - 30 June 2018

Thriving, vibrant, healthy and self-reliant communities

thank you



Norah Howell
Charitable Trust

Page
Trust

Tidd
Foundation

Waikato WDFE
Karamu Trust

Thank you to these businesses that have supported the work we do by providing discounted services, products or have made a donation.

Colourplus Hamilton
Colin Monk Contractors
Bill's Heat Pump Cleaning
Countdown Nawton
CEMAC
PC Hardware
Reynolds Roofing NZ
Jefferies Nock & Associates
Anytime Fitness Avalon
Nawton Dental Centre
Western Community Newspaper Advertisers

Thanks to all those community members that come into the centre and make financial donations, or donate materials, items, clothing and most importantly give time.

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MISSION

Whakatakanga

To create opportunities and provide support that enhances the holistic well-being of the people in our community.

VISION

Tirohanga whakamua

Thriving, vibrant, healthy and self reliant communities.

VALUES

Ngaa uaratanga

Strength based

Respect

Integrity

Quality services

Meaningful Relationships

Professionalism

Te Tiriti O Waitangi

board members



Jamie
Toko

Chairperson



Renu
Cherrington

Treasurer



Pare
Ruha

Secretary



Bill
Rees



Jo
Wrigley



Zanian
Steele



Aaron
Woolley



Shanti
Ralm



Carl
Jackson



Dave
Macpherson

Life Member

2017-2018

Western Community Centre

Over **80**
thousand
Visits



27 New groups
using the venue

Over one
million

Western Community
Newspaper
pages printed

120+ Hours

Justice of
the Peace
clinics



18

tonne
of snow
arrived at

**CHILL
IN THE
PARK**

10,000+
People Attended

community
events

Chill in the Park
Treats in the Park
Craft Extravaganzas
Waitangi Day



9

Western Wheels Courses

Centre Reception

2,205 hours



6,844



facebook
likes



52

Radio shows
produced

Thanks 

Supporting
our Community
since 1979



569

Volunteer
Opportunities

over **20,000**
cups of teas made



40

Laughter Yoga
classes

16 Student Placement opportunities
provided for high school &
tertiary students.

500

after school care
hours



40,000

Sunflower, seeds
distributed



thousands
of

bags of fruit and
veggies packed



Jamie Toko

Kia ora everyone

Nau mai haere mai. Welcome to our 2018 Annual General Meeting. To all distinguished guests, members of the community and our Funders welcome.

I would like to thank Neil, our staff, our many volunteers and the Western Community Association Board for all their continued efforts and hard work that have contributed to the success of our Centre. As we are aware our services and initiatives are a valuable asset within the western community and provide positive activities for parents and their children. The late nights and long weekends do not go unnoticed. Thank you.

I would also like to thank our many Funders for their continued financial contribution to the Centre, Hamilton City Council, Ministry of Social Development, Lottery Grants Board, Wel Energy Trust, Trust Waikato, Lion Foundation, DV Bryant, Tidd Foundation, just to name a few. I am also overwhelmed by the generosity of our local businesses and philanthropic donators thank you. Without this funding it would be very difficult to deliver these services and activities. Your funding has not only supported the operations and administration but it has also contributed to the wellbeing of the families and children we support. We have seen upgrades, redecorating and refurbishing of some of our venue rooms making the Centre more welcoming and affordable. Thank you.

For many families, sustaining an affordable income often requires both parents working which leaves their children in a vulnerable position of care. The Centre takes a responsible attitude toward caring for children during these times by providing after school care and holiday programmes. The Centre will always be available for anyone in the community to drop in and have a chat with one of our staff members or just to have a conversation over a cup of tea. We won't turn anyone away.

Treats in the Park, Chill in the Park, are just a few of the exciting activities that we run for families and their children, a safe, affordable and fun environment.

With a steady increase in our budget and the demand on the venue and venue hire which has increased substantially; it is evident that we have out grown the building in its current capacity. The challenge and priority is to seek funding for an extension to the existing building but in the interim we are now working towards renovating part of the building that is owned and operated by HCC. Discussions are currently under way to see this project fulfilled. I would appreciate the support of our current funders and community to assist in the planning and financing of this project. We do require an immense amount of help for this venture.

Looking from a financial position the Centre has a very tight budget but works well with maintaining our events and services. We are proud to be a "Living Wage" employer and lead by example in the community. We understand the financial strain that some families encounter in terms of money owed for holiday and after school programmes but we are realistic in how that small debt can be recovered. The Board is always available and open to finding solutions for families.

To the incoming Board, I welcome new and existing members because our "Building extension" will be a major focus for the remainder of the year and going into 2019 and will require robust discussion and planning. Unfortunately due to time restraints our Constitution and Policy review is now a task for 2018 - 2019 but we are committed to doing this.

In closing, as always I have thoroughly enjoyed this year on the WCA Board working for the Community. Thank you again Neil, WCC Staff, HCC Staff our volunteers and WCA Board.

No reira, tena koutou, tena koutou, Kia ora tatou katoa.

Nga mihi nui

Jamie Toko JP

WCA Chairperson



Chairperson

Neil Tolan

Lots of goodness, laughter, connection, positivity, hard work and fun!

I believe everyday our vision is being fulfilled and is clearly evident in the positive outcomes we see and hear everyday.

Our Venue

Whilst our focus is predominately within the Hamilton West area we have become a hub and home to 154 of Hamiltons community groups, churches, organisations, schools and clubs. With the growing demand for our venue and the challenge of continuing to grow our services within our current facilities, funding was applied to fit commercial divider doors in the large community room. The doors have assisted us in better using our space, thank you to the Lottery Grants Board for funding this project.

To our funders and supporters

Thank you for forming the partnership to provide services and programmes that we believe are making a real, positive difference. Thank you to the Hamilton City Council for continuing to support us through the multi-year community grant allocation. We are grateful for the council staff and councillors who advocated and supported the decision to have this grant pool increased. You may have noticed the blatant Table and Chair ad on the next page. We have been very successful with growing this enterprise as a way of raising untagged funds as well as a offering a great service to the community. We are seeing really good growth in this area and are really pleased to have 12 month hire sales of \$22,878.

Strategic plan

We have had a very successful process with gathering information from our staff, board, volunteers and community to input into a new strategic plan. Thank you to Community Waikato for supporting us with this journey and we look forward to compiling a new set of goals moving forward.

To our chairperson and board

Thank you to Jamie Toko who has been a tremendous support to myself and the centre over many years. Jamie gives the centre countless hours being available as Chairperson. Your support to me in my role is really appreciated.

Thank you to each board member for their support, encouragement, advice and guidance throughout the year. I have enjoyed working with you all and appreciate that you are all 100% behind our vision. Thank you for the time you take out of your busy lives to support the centre and community.

A very big thank you to Atutahi Riki who has officially agreed to work with us as our Kaumatua and cultural advisor. It has been really awesome to have Atutahi's support and input and I know this relationship will continue to grow and prosper.

To our staff and volunteers

Thank you for your commitment and dedication to helping make our part of Hamilton a great place for our families. Thank you for for making the centre a fun and rewarding place to work in and for supporting me in my role. A special thank you to Joan Marshall who left us to retire after 12 years of awesome mahi. Also thank you to Reegan Tata who moved on to another community role and we are pleased she continues to be based within our community.

Throughout the year we have an amazing community army of volunteers who assist the centre in a wide range of roles. We couldn't do what we do without you!



Manager

We have Tables and Chairs for Hire!

WEEKEND DEAL!

**CHAIRS \$2, TABLES \$6 EACH,
PICK UP FRIDAY DROP BACK MONDAY.**

(Minimum \$50 bond)



Max Coyle

What a marvellous year its been. It's been enlightening, enjoyable and exciting seeing longer term projects come to fruition and seeing the fruits of our labors and the positive impact they bring to the community and how important the work can be.

I've been doing a lot more work assisting people with issues around technology, employment, housing, CV's, legal issues and pointing people in the right direction. Lately we have had many more seniors and youth coming in. Building these relationships and being able to assist them has been rewarding but also connecting the two groups together has given a real benefit to our communities social cohesion.

Funding: It was with sadness we farewelled Joan Marshall, our long standing Funding Coordinator, but with joy that we wished her well in her retirement. I was lucky and thankful to be able to spend months with Joan preparing to take on her role, being shown the ins and outs and having her wealth of knowledge on call to assist with any questions. It takes a lot of work to keep the lights on so to speak and a huge thankyou to Joan for all her great work throughout the years and her long term accomplishments, goals realised over many years. If I can do half the job Joan did I'll be doing well :D

Internet and phone upgrade: Our phone systems have been fully replaced, it had become difficult for people to contact us over the phone and we had been having multiple internet issues. The building's original communication wiring and systems had to be replaced and overseeing this and seeing the result, increased connectivity with and for our community, is great. Thanks to all the funders that helped make it happen.

Western Community News: The Western Community News has expanded to over 19'000 copies and is still Hamilton's best newspaper (we reckon!) telling the amazing stories of our community and sharing everything we do as well as other awesome agencies helping the community. Thanks to all our advertisers for their support, without them this wouldn't be possible.





Funding coordinator

Joan Marshall

It has been my privilege and pleasure to be the Western Community Association funding co-ordinator for the last 12 years. To the funders of the Centre thank you for your support of both the Centre and myself, you have always been there when advice on grants is needed, the difference you make enabling us to provide services and events for the community is so very much appreciated.

I have made many friends over the years with both members of the community, advisors to Trusts and Foundations and staff at the Centre. To the community of West Hamilton, you are awesome and your community spirit is second to none.

Finally to the Centre staff you are all amazing, your passion in making a difference, your support of each other, your friendship, you have all changed my life in different ways and I am a better person for having known you all.

Western Community Centre continue to support the community and the community to support the Centre.

It is now time for me to enjoy what retirement has to offer but I will always keep in touch with the Centre.

Wendy Katipo

I am pleased to report the finances of the centre are in a healthy position and we have been able to produce a small profit whilst continuing to deliver a large range of services.

We have been able to continue to develop our financial systems including changing the way we pay our staff to Xero payroll, moving from a system that wasn't cloud based. It is already proving to be of benefit to the centre and users.

Another example has been with our After School and Holiday Programmes moving to Aimy Plus. This cloud based software is designed to help administrate tasks such as online bookings and automatic invoices linking to our xero accounts. This has made things much simpler for all involved.



Financial Administrator

Aileen Rangi-Whaikawa-Mills

Kia orana koutou,

Here at the centre we learn fast what is needed and wanted when our people walk through the doors.

Bonding sessions take place when needs are met and conversations that inform our folks of better ways are always at hand.

Being available is one of those "I am here " moments that lead to strengthening community ties for the good of everyone.

Be successful, Talk it up, walk it out.

My gratitude to everyone that makes a difference to the lives of our people.

Metaki



Western Wheels

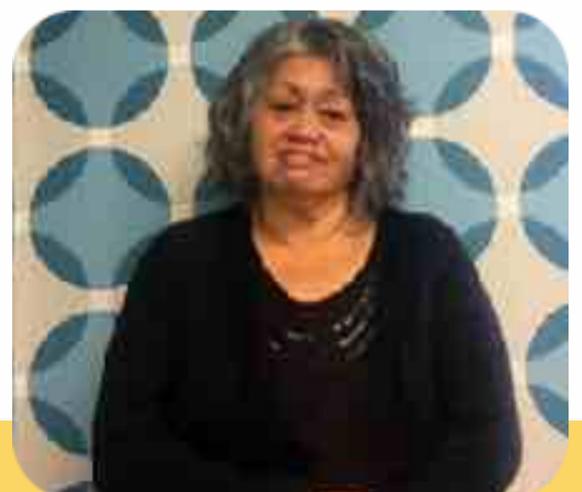
The events are a great way way to be with my friends and enjoy the moments.

I love to cook and show off my skills when bringing a plate to the luncheons.

The luncheons are special to me. I don't even need my husband to come because I enjoy going to see everyone.

BUS TRIPS HAVE BEEN A GREAT WAY TO SEE THE SIGHTS AND FIND OUT THE HISTORICAL VALUES.

I attend Tai chi to get fitter!





Moses

Moses Cherrington

Our transport of one bus and three vans made their way to a rail station situated in Karangahake Gorge to board a train that would take its passengers to Waihi.

To the 63 members of the elderly who accompanied us on the day, we were showered with fine weather that enriched our experience as we enjoyed the train ride. Wow, to ride a train after 52 years and in an open carriage too brought back memories to all of us.

There were hosts on the train who were to educate us about our trip to Waihi, the land, the history of the land.

What interested me is that the hosts knew very little about the areas I have mentioned, and I gave them feedback to that effect. I even offered to become a host in order to train other hosts.

The journey was a slow trip with the sounds of the clickerty clack of the train's wheels kindled fond memories of the times I used to catch railcars from the country into town in the 60s and we even had a conductor.

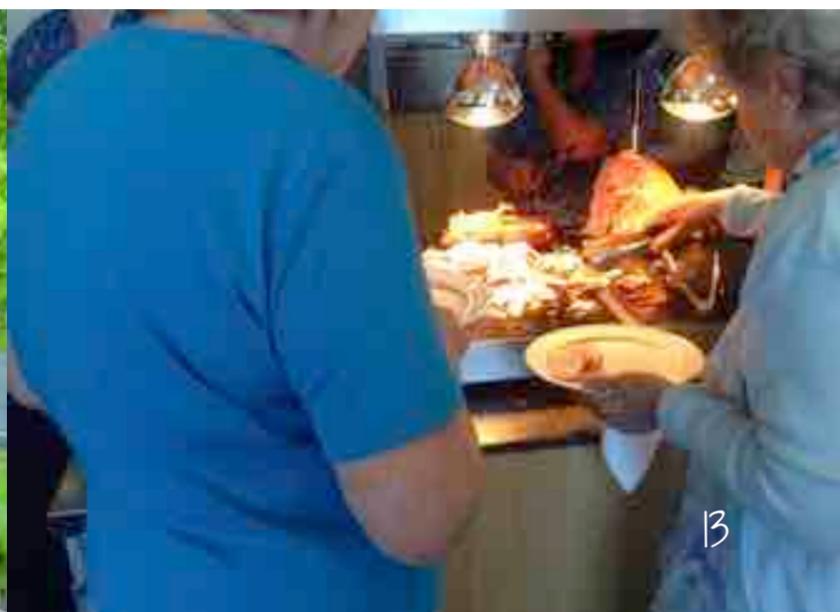
Everyone formed into their social groups and looked relaxed as they enjoyed the sunlight of November, brilliant as it was.

Alighting from the train, we were greeted by our caravan of vehicles which then took us to Waihi Beach restaurant called the Gunners Restaurant. The view is to die for.

Parking in the car park, we were led into the restaurant, where we got to know more of the people on this excursion. We queued up for our meal when we were called, and the salad bar exuded quality food complimenting the fish and ham offered as mains. I thanked the chef and cooks in appreciation of their hard work.

The food offered by the Gunners Restaurant was superb. Not only nutritious but satisfying. The food was so good that I reviewed the restaurant in TripAdvisor, also including photos that I had taken of the food, giving them a high recommendation.

The highlight of the trip was getting to know our passengers, and finding out what they do.



95

unique services were provided during the year improving the quality of life for our Hamilton residents of all ages.

154

community groups, organisations, churches, schools and clubs used our venue

95

Individual, family/whanau bookings

2,302

Venue bookings

Thriving, vibrant, healthy and self-reliant communities



WESTERN Community News

YOUR PEOPLE - YOUR PAPER

38 years later
our newspaper is still telling our stories!



These issues represent over 1 million pages that have been delivered to Hamilton West residents over the past 12 months.
Hamilton's longest serving community owned newspaper!

SPECIAL THANKS

West Hamilton Pharmacy
Tim Macindoe
Nanaia Mahuta
Nawton Dental Centre

Our Newspaper Team

Max Dillon Coyle - WCC
Dave Macpherson - HCC Councillor
Tim Atkinson - Fraser High School
Neil Tolan - WCC
Jan Plumley - Proof Reader



Custodian

Matthew Shadbolt

Hi my names Matty!

"I know its been a long time getting this sort of job but I'm starting to grow into it, and to add to that, its good to be working with ya's.

My favourite part of the job is making sure the sound system is ready to rock and roll. Same with the council system when we have it here. I'm looking forward to another year of work and all the events, Treats in the Park is coming up now and there is always another around the corner.

Whenever you need a hand I'll be there.



TJ

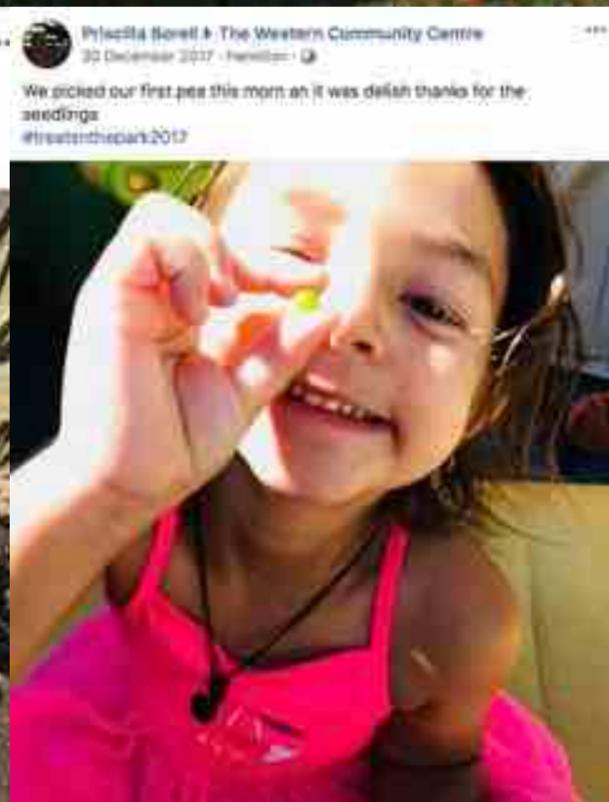
Looking back over the last year and remembering our over fifties luncheons, I recall that they are a successful meeting of a great group of people who come regularly to these luncheons.

We have had a soup tasting lunch, a great kings and queens lunch where we celebrated all our birthdays together. Then there was a couple of luncheons where Aileen was away so I took her place and did it for her, so those who turned up wouldn't be disappointed.

Some people have expressed a little disappointment at not having the bus trips because of the difficulty getting buses and drivers, but still, enjoy the lunch. One person said to me that they just enjoy the bus and it doesn't have to be a visit to anywhere in particular, just a lovely ride in the bus with a nice lunch at the RSA and a bus ride home. From what I've heard many people are really looking forward to the bus trip to Raglan and another boat trip around the harbour, and lunch at the Fish and Chip shop or RSA. A lot of the older people have hip and knee problems and don't enjoy having to walk too far.

All in all these luncheons are an important outing for these over fifties, so long may they continue. I know if they were asked they would express their thanks and gratitude to the Centre for providing them and for often picking them up and taking them home.





Priscilla Borell • The Western Community Centre
30 December 2017 • Hamilton •
This is our garden with peas an beans grown from our treats n the park seeds

Priscilla Borell • The Western Community Centre
30 December 2017 • Hamilton •
We picked our first peas this morn an it was delish thanks for the seedings #treatsthepark2017





Thank you
for all
the hours
you give and
thanks for
all the
happy little
flowers!



Big thanks
to our
amazing
volunteer
TJ

Karina Cootes

Another amazing year supporting many different whanau here within the community. One of the greatest things about my position as the centres Whanau Support Worker is no day is ever the same, each day I am blessed to meet, support and guide whanau from all different walks of life.

Many of these whanau are faced with different obstacles, barriers and new challenges on a daily basis. A lot are unaware and shocked with the expectations required from them by agencies they are working with.

Whanau arrive seeking guidance and many have no idea on where to look or begin to search for the supports they are needing at the time, many are faced with having to navigate their way through our system and for many this can be a terrifying time. One of my biggest roles has been supporting these whanau who require advocacy when having to deal with government agencies. For many this can be a frightening and an uneasy time so providing support can help eliminate some of the stress and heavy load they are having to carry.

This year I have found myself supporting a lot of grandparents who are raising their mokopuna, through this I have seen the ongoing challenges that they face when dealing with certain agencies. There are a lot of supports available within the Waikato area, so making sure each of the whanau I support are receiving those is a must for me and my day to day mahi.

I look forward to our year ahead and I'm truly blessed to work with such an amazing bunch of staff here at the centre.

Kia ora my name is Donna
My whanau and I have the pleasure
of having Karina Cootes as our support worker.
She has been supporting all of my whanau with the
little things that have happened within our whanau.
Karina is most understanding and very hands on,
she explains things in plain english and my whanau
are very grateful for all she has done.. 😊😊

It has been an absolute pleasure
working with Karina over the years.
The support and awahi she has given
us throughout our good and bad times
we couldn't have asked for a better
whanau support worker. Blessed to
have her in our lives.
Tarnsz, Jeremy and the tribe :P





FABULOSITY GIRLZ

Fabulosity & Fabro's

As our local Rangatahi play a huge role here within our centre, our youth driven programs ensure we are providing a safe space for each of them to attend on a day to day basis. Each and everyone of them bring a unique twist and vibe to our centre, they all contribute to our space being a vibrant, happy and enjoyable place to be. Our weekly sessions are focused on empowering each of our rangatahi both individually and within the group setting.

We encourage all our rangatahi to strive to be the best that they can be. We look at goal setting and help each of them look at what really needs to take place, in order for their goals to be met.

As we all know rangatahi are competitive and competitions and challenges work really well in our space. Sports and fitness, amazing races around Hamilton, master chef cook off, arts & crafts projects, opportunity to run our afterschool program and even a space to have those tough discussions no one really wants to talk about, are just some of the things our rangatahi love to do with us here at the centre.

Mentoring and walking alongside of these rangatahi makes coming to work an exciting thing to do, It's always a great feeling to know you've made a positive impact or difference in someone else's journey and thankfully our rangatahi acknowledge and always thank us for the mahi we do. We constantly strive to build positive, respectful and trusting relationships with each of our rangatahi and it works really well in our space.

I want to take this time to acknowledge our "AMAZING RANGATAHI" for simply just being them, for making each day different and full of fun, for always going over and above for the centre and constantly putting their hands up to support our staff on a daily basis and during our big annual events, so a huge shoutout to them all. You guys are AWESOME...



It's free and fun as, Karina is cool and we always do fun as things when we are with her down at the centre. "

Journey

I like how fabulosity was only for girls and we learnt to communicate instead of fussing and fighting. There was heaps of cool as activities. Fabulosity was one amazing journey and Karina is one amazing person.
Kirikups aka Kups

I like coming to fabulosity and fab bros because its fun, enjoyable and we do lots of activities. We eat heaps and Karina's someone that is always there if you need someone to talk to, she's kind and amazing in every way.

Henijane

We always do cool as activities and Karina is real cool Its funs as when we meet heaps of new people and we always have nice as

food Rose

Nathan Morgan

Ko Tainui Te Waka
Ko Taupiri Te Maunga
Ko Waikato Te Awa
Ko Waikato Te Iwi

Ko Pōtatau Te Wherowhero Te Tangata
He Piko, He Taniwha
He Piko, He Taniwha
Waikato Taniwharau

What an 'Awesome Year' - full of so many positive 'memories & doings', made amongst the Western Community Whanau, within the local Community and the 'unification' of the greater/wider Waikato, Aotearoa!

This year started with celebrating NZ's National 'Waitangi Day' 2018, which was a great success and fun to work along side 'Te Runanga o Kirikiriroa - Hamilton' for the 3rd year in a row! The 'highlight' for me was seeing all the YOUTH and volunteers attend and assist with all the small and not so small jobs, from organising the entertainment and stage, to cooking/baking and making the beautiful food/kai stalls stand out even more! This showed to us a great sense of commitment from the students/youth to this awesome community as they were 'keen' to give up their 'free time' to do this - So a big THANKS goes out, to all of YOU!

Other awesome events over the past year...included 'Treats in the Park - 2017' - which was also another great success with many, many smiles from all the kids. We are now in the process of building up to organising our Treats in the Park - 2018! This will be its '16th year' running, so this is definitely a huge successful event that the community, schools, whanau and children have already, 'automatically', added to each ones calendar lol!

'Chill in the Park - 2018' went off with a 'BLAST'... 'A blast of cold and snowy chills...' for all the community and children to come together and enjoy and round off the winter/spring school holidays! We had over 3,000 children and families attend with over 50 youth/volunteers assisting us at 'CHILL 2018', which was a huge success! Our 'Nawtons Got Talent (N.G.T.)' is just getting bigger every year, so we are looking at how we can manage the awesome amounts of talent coming through as this builds up to be larger than life, almost lol! Thanks to all the staff, volunteers and community groups who assisted us this year, and a huge THANKS goes out to Tamehana Moanaroa and the awesome crew at 'Te Ahurei a Rangatahi' who managed to sort the 'latest' mural on our Wall - Check out the pics! Chur





YOUTH WEEK 2018 - 'Nawton Night Skate' is another awesome side-project we co-ordinate alongside our awesome HTOWN SKATE PROJECT (H.S.P.). We had over 25 entries this year and celebrated Youth Week 2018, in style! Cheers to the H.S.P. crew for this and all there volunteers and participants! Chur

Western Brotherhood - One of our YOUTH programme's is 'cranking' and we are getting more and more youth participating on a 'daily basis' within the centre and out in the greater community/society in more positive ways, than not!

We have had over 75 young persons/youth/children attend our programmes over the past year... and they continue to support us at our community events wherever possible as they also continue on their personal journey! A huge THANKS goes out to our other important Youth/Children/Whanau Development worker's, Tom Ngaheru Hunt and Karina Cootes for their awesome support through/over the past year and for co-ordinating our 'TIMEOUT' Youth Holiday Programme which was a blast! THANKS to our awesome 'YOUTH leaders' who continue to inspire us, as well!

Also a huge THANKS to our awesome community advisors at the H.C.C, Mareta Matenga, Ani Nock, Ioana Marsters and their awesome team who always support us in many, helpful ways - Kia ora!

Another important part to all our events been so successful over the past year is having over 250 youth/volunteers, contributing to this awesome community. We could not have done this without the many helpers, not only out in the front/in the open, but also the ones behind the scenes, the cooks, the cleaners, fundraisers and our important, Vibrant mix of Wisdom on our B.O.T. - Board of trustees, who keep us 'ticking along' nicely - Thank you all.

Also to the cool, Western Community staff - THANKS for all your guy's support and assistance over the past year & thanks to our 'Site Custodian' - Matty Shadbolt and 'Gardeners/Mentors' TJ & Julz, and to Serina, Laurie, Tony & all others for all your guys positive energy & hard mahi!

Thanks to our awesome manager, Neil Tolan for all the hard mahi/work he puts into this awesome centre, community, people, tamariki/children and the management of our hard, working staff. I know it's not an easy 'job' but we all tautoko/support him, as we all have the same 'mission' and need to continue to work as a collective to strive and do our best, especially in the 'hard times but also embracing the FUN times' - We all must also remember to keep smiling and been positive!

My final 'THANKS' must go out to all our 'important funders/sponsors' that support us, in any way/s possible - Thank You heaps and heaps!

My final 'WORDS' go out to ALL the people in our communities and world...

"Ko te ahurei o te tamaiti aroha o tatou mahi - Let the uniqueness of the 'CHILD' guide our work"...

Thanks for listening, sharing, caring and been a part of the beautiful and inspiring 'Western Community Movement'...



It's a mean place to have, it's there to help everyone that needs help with life skills and other things 4 every walk of life

They help me, Thanks a lot, mean as...JAH BLESS USE ALL....

Isa Teaukura

you are all about the community and constantly help families out providing free resources, low cost initiatives and lots of fun and love!

Charlotte Ramare

Possibly the best thing that has happened in the Newton community

Ross Stevenson

Always there for the community

Tarsh Thompson

Great place, with great support, would recommend them to everyone I know. I love the positive attitude and vibe that I always feel when I enter this whare! I was also a part of one of the community events and despite weather putting a slight damper on things it was still awesome to be a part of the day and sharing our health promotion kaupapa. Some awesome people working here that contribute so much time and effort for the betterment of the community. Huge mihi to the team and your incredible leader

Melissa Epiha

Western Community Centre reflects the heartbeat of their staff and community. The love to serve and honour people from all walks of life in pursuit of Mauri Ora (health and well-being). In my eyes, this philosophy is underpinned by the applied principles that WCC practice with integrity; Manaakitanga (flowing in of care) whakawhanaungatanga (connectedness) and kotahitanga (unity).

Jane Caffery

I LOVE THE CENTRE AND EVERYTHING IT DOES FOR THE COMMUNITY, FROM ALWAYS HAVING PLEASANT HAPPY STAFF, TO PHOTOCOPYING, JUSTICE OF THE PEACE, HOLIDAY AND AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS, ROOM HIRE WITH TABLES AND CHAIR AT AFFORDABLE PRICES! AMAZING FOOD GIVE ALWAYS AS WELL AS VEGE/FRUIT BOXES AMAZING PROGRAMMES LIKE HALLOWEEN, FRUIT TREES IN HOMES, BOARD GAME NIGHT AND MANY MANY MORE. I THINK THE WESTERN COMMUNITY CENTRE IS THE EPITOME OF WHAT A "COMMUNITY CENTRE" IS ALL ABOUT. ABSOLUTE TOPS IN MY BOOK !!!

RENEE JACKSON

I really support the fact that 'you take on what the community asks for' within reason & try to engage & be as informative as possible & your partnership with Kaivolution is through the roof...very appreciative

TIAHINE WHAREKURA-KINGI



Cheerz Western Community Centre your service has been awesome for many years and still many more to come big Congratz to you all
Eliza Skilton

The coolest place in Hamilton :) Love you guys, thankyou.

Sandra Mcgonigal

Fantastic community centre that caters for all from children to seniors. A place people can be proud of.
Lisa Rua

They do so much for the community, positive attitudes and very willing to help
Akeasha Y. Paiti-Smith

Awesome people. Very helpful. Doing great stuff in the community
Michelle Nelley

Best Community Centre in Hamilton. Thank you all for everything you put on for the community and the mahi you all do. Wonderful, friendly helpful staff, I tell everyone about the \$10 vege packs. Good rooms to hire too love Western Community Centre. Keep up the great mahi!!!
Jocelyn Te Kanawa

TINO PAI.
CHILL IN THE PARK,
TREATS IN THE PARK,
SO MANY COOL THINGS!

TOKA NAMIKAZE

You should be used as a example to other communities in ways to help themselves. You do great work may it continue.

Simone Kokawa

Having been a past committee member and centre manager I am proud to see the progress the Community Centre & Association has made since 2000, from being a Community Association that was about to vote to close after 23 years service to the Nawton Community to the organisation it is today with positive attitudes, committee, staff & volunteers have all worked together and shared the same vision, Western Community Centre & Association are now deemed to be the leaders in their field. You're there for the community as a whole, from after school care to providing fruit & veg packs, planting fruit trees, to putting on events throughout the year. The staff and volunteers are a credit to the management & Committee and always friendly and approachable. Keep it up everyone.
Peter Crake

Im new to hamilton and new to the area. I have never been to a centre like that where i felt like i was apart of a community its by far the best community centre I've ever been to keep up the good work
Ngairie Kaihau

YOUR
Feedback



Laughter Yoga

40
classes held

It is a practice involving prolonged voluntary laughter. Laughter yoga is based on the belief that voluntary laughter provides the same physiological and psychological benefits as spontaneous laughter. Laughter yoga is done in groups, with eye contact, jokes and playfulness between participants. Forced laughter soon turns into real and contagious laughter. We use a combination of deep breathing exercises from yoga and laughter exercises, which oxygenates our body and brain, making us feel more healthy and energetic. Held weekly Tuesdays 9.30am - 10.10am.

Jenny Ensing

2018 had seen an increased demand for counselling at WCC. We have continued to support positive change for individuals, couples and families in the Western Community Centre.

We have offered over 1,000 counselling hours - identifying hopes, and supporting people to live safer, happier and more fulfilling lives. We have strengthened relationships and reduced conflict by exploring and practicing helpful communication tools, and growing awareness of helpful power dynamics.

We have continued to support local people to flourish, as well as attracting people from our wider NZ community, adding to the diversity of both the group we serve, and the service offered. Priority is given to care of people who identify as coming through WCC.

We are constantly adapting and upskilling to best meet the needs of the people we serve. 2018 has a been year where people who need help have been able to find help.



Counsellor



We were very pleased to welcome Jacinda Ardern to the very packed community centre prior to the 2017 election.



Election 2017

Having the option for people advance voting (11 days) at the

centre was very successful. We were able to encourage our usual visitors to vote and there has been a very big turnout from the general public. We received really good feedback with providing the public with a place to go to vote. The Vote take was treble what had been forecast by the Electoral Commission.

#happyvotingeverybody

A typical day!



The Western Community Centre

Published by Neil Tolan (v) · 30 August at 16:53 · Q



It's another huge day and night at your community centre with this awesome line up!

Hamilton Plunket, Land Based Training Ltd, English Language Partners Waikato, Legal Advice, Friendship Society visit with a wonderful group from Japan, He Waka Eke Nua Community of Learning, Triple One Care - Northern Region First Aid course, Little Stars Playgroup, Progress to Health, Courage Counselling, After School Programme, Moko Club Hamilton, Incorporated Martial Arts (IMA) and Yoga West and tomorrows and even bigger day!
#goodthingshappeninnawton

Where our funds came from



Grants and
Contracts
\$381,509

Donations/
Fundraising
\$15,997

Event
Contribution
\$16,753

Printing + photocopying
Fundraising Initiatives
Bank Interest

This is the funds that people
provide towards our events

Venue Hire
\$96,261

Participant
Fees
\$125,003

Veggie Sales
\$14,246

46 Hyde ave
108 Grandview
Tables and Chair Hire

After School Care
Holiday Programmes

Service Fees
\$64,722

Western
Community
News
\$22,282

Tutor Fees
Counselling

Income

How the funds were spent



Admin & Operating Expenses
\$323,855

Electricity/Gas/ Water
Insurance
Motor vehicle Expenses
Phones/Internet
Rates
Repairs/Maintenance
Accountant/Auditor
Training
Cleaning
Advertising/Promotion
Lots of Cups of Tea/Coffee
Staff Wages

Children's Programmes
\$111,931

After School Care,
Holiday Programmes
Talented Tamariki
Includes Staff Wages

Venues Expenses
\$48,374

Repairs,
Maintenance,
Cleaning
Advertising/Promotion
Electricity/Gas/ Water
108 Grandview rd Rent

Community Support
\$70,924

Support Services
Counselling Services

Western Community News
\$21,363

Production,
Distribution,

Community Projects
\$20,925

Healthy Living Projects,
Fruit + Veggie Co-op
Volunteers
Craft Extravaganza

Youth Projects
\$62,502

Youth Programmes
Western Wheels
Youth Development
Includes Staff Wages

50+ Programmes
\$17,090

Luncheons,
Trips,
Shopping
Tutor Fees

Community Events
\$26,154

Chill in the Park
Treats in the Park
Waitangi Day

Note: Includes
Depreciation \$10,783
Total Wages across WCC amount to \$413,078

If we broke what we spent down to \$1



Operating & Admin	46.5
Children's Programmes	16
Venues Expenses	7
Community Events	3.5
Community Projects	3
Youth Projects	9
Community Support	10
Western Community News	3
50+ Programmes	2
	100

our venue users

July 2017 - June 2018

CHILDREN

WCC Talented Tamariki, weekly, July - Nov
Perinatal Mental Health, weekly
WCC After School Programme, 200 days
WCC Holiday Programme, 9 weeks,

PLAYGROUPS

Iloha Japanese Playgroup, weekly
Little Stars Playgroup, weekly
Manitas Spanish playgroup, weekly
Starjam, weekly
Moko Club, 4 visits per week, July - Jan

YOUTH

WCC Brotherhood Youth Programmes, weekly
WCC Fabulosity Girls programme, weekly
WCC Western Wheels Learner Licence, 9 courses, 36 visits
WCC Youth drop in, daily
Starjam, 2 visits per week
Timeout Youth Holiday Programme, 1 week

EDUCATION/SUPPORT

English Language Classes, Monday to Thursday
Te Reo Classes, weekly
Triple One Care-First Aid, 16 visits
Land Based Training, daily
Legal Advice Clinic-Neimand Peebles Hoult, weekly
Justice of the Peace Clinic, weekly
Chain Link, monthly

ACTIVITIES/CLUBS/GROUPS

West Hamilton Action Group, monthly
Hamilton Fighting Game Club, fortnightly
Western Boarders, monthly
Calvary Chapel, weekly, July-Dec
Toastmasters, weekly
WCC The Woolly Club, weekly
Whatawhata Maori Womens Welfare League, monthly
Maori Womens Welfare League Nawton, monthly
Man Up, Woman Up, weekly
Spiritual Discovery Group, weekly
Chain Link Bike Repair, monthly
West Hamilton Action Group, monthly

OFFICE SPACE PROVISION

WCC staff and Volunteers
Patients Rights Advocacy
Vision of Hope
Kiwi Staff
Plunket

HEALTH

WCC Laughter Club, weekly
Waikato DHB-Newborn Hearing Screening weekly
Plunket Nurse, 1 day per week
Mates Forum, fortnightly
Courage Counselling, daily
Wairua O Pikowai, weekly
Yoga-April Boonen, weekly, July-Jan
Incorporated Martial Arts, 4 days per week
Progress to Health, weekly
Warren Parker Ltd, 3 times per week, July-Dec
Western City Sports, weekly
WCC Western Walkers, weekly

50 + PROGRAMMES

WCC Tai Chi, 2 visits per week
WCC Senior Luncheon, monthly
WCC The Woolly Club, weekly
WCC A bit of a Do Event
WCC 50+ Luncheon, monthly
Just Breathe, exercise class, weekly

CHURCHES

Westside Church, weekly
Church of Christ, Thursday & Saturday
UCKG, fortnightly
Forward in Faith, weekly

OFFICE SPACE PROVISION

Western Community Centre Administration
Patients Rights Advocacy
Vision of Hope
Kiwi Staff
Maori Womens Welfare League Nawton

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Waitangi Day
Chill in the Park
Treats in the Park
Low Cost Living Expo
Night Skate, 2 events
Craft Extravaganza, 2 events



OTHER USERS

Oranga Tamariki, 30 visits
Private bookings, 95 visits
Hamilton Children's Team
Preventing Suicide-Grow John Henden
Understanding & Treating Self-Injurious Behaviours-Grow
Emergency Management Response Planning-Civil Defence, 2 visits
Briscoes Group
Cogs Public Meeting-Department of Internal Affairs
Tihi o Moerangi-Makomako, 10 visits
Grandview Shopping Centre
Family Support Worker-Pukete Neighbourhood House, 4 visits
Enabling Good Lives, 3 visits
Dog Registration, Hamilton City Council
Hamilton Libraries-Hamilton City Council, 2 visits
Hamilton City Council, 7 visits
Reading Buddies- Hamilton Library, 6 visits
West Network Meeting-Hamilton City Council, 6 visits
National Party AGM
New Zealand Educational Institute
NZMA, 2 visits
YWCA, 2 visits
Encore NZ, 4 visits
Waiwhakaata 3E64B2 Trust, 2 visits
Little Stars Playgroup Garage Sale Fundraiser
YR Casting Company
Universal Love Frequencies Workshops, 6 visits
Housing NZ
Te Tumu Paeroa, 9 visits
Restorative Justice, 47 visits
NZ First Hamilton West, 11 visits
He Waka Eke Noa Community of Learning, 16 visits
Hamilton City Tigers, 2 visits
Hauraki PHO
New Covenant Worship Team
NZ Institute of Highway Technology Ltd
Healthcare NZ, 2 visits
Crystal Cafe-The Crystal Point
Le Va
Living Light NZ Tour
Craft Extravaganza Hui, 2 visits
KaiRua
Forward Mediation
Youth Week Night Skate - Htown Skate Project & WCC
Restricted Licence Workshop - WCC, 3 visits
Tauwi Prevention Project Hui
Fraser Tech Junior Rugby, 9 visits
Belle of the Ball, 2 visits
Explore Specialist Advice, 4 visits
Perinatal Mental Health - WDHB, 2 visits
Yolanda Soryl Literacy
Pamper Day-MWWL Whatawhata Branch, 2 visits
Parenting Programme-Te Wananga O Aotearoa, 5 visits
Summer Swag-Te Wananga O Aotearoa
Auditions-Pop Flim LTD
Tama Tu-Fraser High School
Touch Tournament-ATC Training
Pregnancy Counselling, 9 visits
Hamilton Budgeting Advisory Trust
University of Auckland, 2 visits
Knowledge Creation, 2 visits
NZ Institute of Highway Technology Ltd, 2 visits
Adult Literacy Rural Trust
Etu Union, 2 visits
Forward in Faith, 2 visits

New Zealand Electoral Commission, 12 visits
Reality Check, 2 visits
The Hemp Farm
Living Wage Waikato Workshop
Odyssey House Trust, 2 visits
Stepping Up
Nurture Minds Childcare
Sincere Funeral Services
10 Year Plan Set the Agenda-Go Eco
Community Network Garden Meeting-Go Eco
Baby Coach NZ
Top Party
Spiritual Discovery Group, 5 visits
Educational Leadership consulting, 7 visits
EVOLVE Education, 2 visits
Forward Mediation, 2 visits
Green Party, 6 visits
Industry Training Solutions, 5 visits
Kiwi Daddy's, 2 visits
Knowledge Creation, 2 visits
Linda Smiler Holistic Counselling, 7 visits
Mandelle Trust weekly
Pilgrim Practices Ltd, 3 visits
Progress to Health, 11 visits
Project Restore
Te Whare O Te Ata
Labour Party, 2 visits
Jacinda Ardern visit
Ethnic Family Services, 2 visits
Community Law Centre
Oparua Station Trust
Shree Swaminarayan Hindu Temple, 2 visits
Takawai & Chris Ltd, 2 visits
Te Korowai Hauora O Hauraki, 3 visits
Fraser Tech Rugby, 3 visits
Community Steering group
The Hemp Farm, 5 visits
Tama Tu Hui
Sport Waikato, 2 visits
Empowering Womens Event - Tracey Nicholls
Repair CO-OP - Go Eco
Waikato Touch
Waitangi Day Planning meeting
Graeme Dingle Foundation Waikato
Busit

Solar System



2016 **14,732** (kWh) produced
2017 **15,356** (kWh) produced
2018 **14,524** (kWh) produced

**Total
Power bill
savings
\$8,000+**



Thank You   

HOLIDAY PROGRAMME



HIGHLIGHTS OF 2017-2018

Movies - Chill In The Park - Taste Testing - Sports - Obstacles Experiments
Wearable Arts - Scrapbooking - Lake Trips - Play dough - Inflatables in the park
Magic shows - Arts and Crafts - Teddy Bear Picnic - Western Stars X-Factor
Fiestas - Olympics - Bake offs - Tie dying - Mosaics - Hutt building... etc

WHAT THEY ENJOYED THE MOST...

"Having somewhere to go..."

"Meeting new friends..."

"That she knew others..."

"Daily activities..."

"Talent shows our kids took part of..."

A year has rolled pasted again and what a blast it has been!

This October programme we are actually celebrating our committed staff and volunteers who have given their time and dedication to our children and programme.

On that note i would again just like to thank all of our amazing volunteers who help make our job a easier, their assistance and dedication is always greatly appreciated.

We would like to acknowledge our amazing board and fellow staff members here at the community centre who all help the programme run smoothly. We have such a great team and I would just like to take the time to thank you all cheers guys

Trish Terry



Trish Terry



YOUR SAY: Whats the best thing about the **Holiday Programme?**



Tehoringa

The games and the dancing & spending time with my mum

Playing outside, playing with my favourite friends



Manoa



Nivah

Playing with my friends and eating my lunch

Making my cup and going to the movies



Michael



Shakarna

Playing with others and looking after people and helping

Hanging out with Shania and the games and crafts, making things



Ceejay



Maahanga

Playing ping pong, basketball and touch



Ngahuia Nelson

If you want to know where all the fun people are at the Western Community Centre then head straight pass reception and keep going till you reach the Western Stars room then your in the right place. Give Max and Neil a friendly wave to acknowledge their presence in the building. You will love our easy going after school crew, but be warned you won't want to leave once you encounter this bunch. After School is developing significantly here at the Community Centre with so many fresh ideas and activities for the kids to enjoy. What surprised me was the kids willingness to do something that I would consider old school, such as knitting for the girls and gardening for all the children. I guess the thought of being outside surrounded by dirt was enjoyable to them.

We like to celebrate the end of each term with a bang. For term 2 we had an epic pyjama party on the last day of school. We split the kids up so the girls could do their nails and hair, whilst the boys had an all out nerf gun war setting up their very own battlefield to protect each groups flag from the enemy. After all the pampering and battle we ended the day with popcorn. You can't go wrong with popcorn in the midst.

I was asked the question where do I want to see our program in 3-5years time or what do I think we could do better at After School care? I had to ponder upon it for a bit because my first thought was "well we have just done a few changes, what else could there be?" But then I remembered there is always room for improvement. So I thought about us as a Community Centre and the main thing we do, which is, we give back to Nawton community.

Following on from this thought it developed into the revelation of our children giving back to the community by essentially spending time with our older community one day a month. We have dubbed this as GENERATION. Since our girls love to sing their heart out we thought we would kick it off with them putting on a mini concert in the courtyard of the flats. This is focused on teaching the younger generation to care for by spending quality with our older generation. We have planned to do different activities for GENERATION ranging from games of chess to performances for both generations to enjoy.

I always have to acknowledge my awesome staff because if it weren't for them After School would not run so smoothly without their help. We are excited to carry out the plans and vision for the future





Tina Tanoa

Hi, my name is Tina Tanoa and I work here at this wonderful community centre. I have for a few years now and i love my job and what we do here but especially my part working with the holiday program and after school care. We have so much fun playing games doing arts and crafts, outdoor fun, baking and learning to serve our community. If you see me about Nawton don't be shy to say hi!



Chontal How

Hi I'm Chontal or Miss How, I work her at the after school care programme and holiday programme. I love it and always have lots of fun!



Sandy Austin

Hi my name is Sandy I've been apart of the Nawton community for a long time and have for over a year started volunteering at the after school care. I really enjoy reading and being able to be apart of these young kids lives as they start to grow.



Thomas Hunt

Kia Ora, Talofa lava, Fakaalofa lahi atu, Malo e lelei, Bula vinaka, Hello!

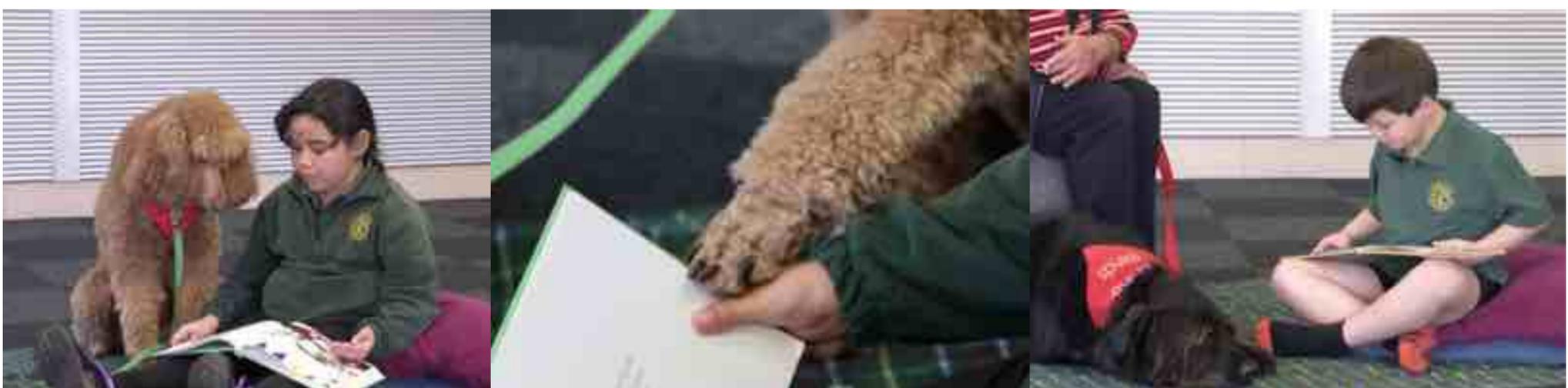
Ko au

Ko Thomas Ngaheru Hunt ahau Who am I ? Thomas Hunt No Rotorua ahau, Engari kei Kirikiriroa ahau enaianei. My origin lays in Rotorua but now rest my head in the beautiful place of Nawton, Hamilton.

I work along side an amazing team here at the western community centre. I am apart of the Youth Development team here with Nathan Morgan.

What is my why?

My why is to journey with the young people of this community and give them a positive belonging and help build a positive independence in their lives. Tena rawa atu koe



Reading Buddies

We were really fortunate to take up an opportunity with the Hamilton City Libraries to be the pilot for the "Reading Buddies programme. "Reading to a dog gives the child a non-judgemental learning experience, and they're more comfortable reading aloud and at their own pace than they might be with a group of other children." The sessions were run for seven weeks and we were really pleased when the team from the libraries were able to continue with more of our children. Thank you Hamilton City Libraries!



CHAIN LINK HAMILTON



DOING GOOD THINGS WITH BIKES



A Huge Thanks to Chain Link!
Providing a monthly bike repair
workshop for our community has
been really appreciated
by many!

Big thanks to James McKellar
and all the volunteers of this
great service.

Empowering Women and Victims Event an evening to empower, support and inspire!



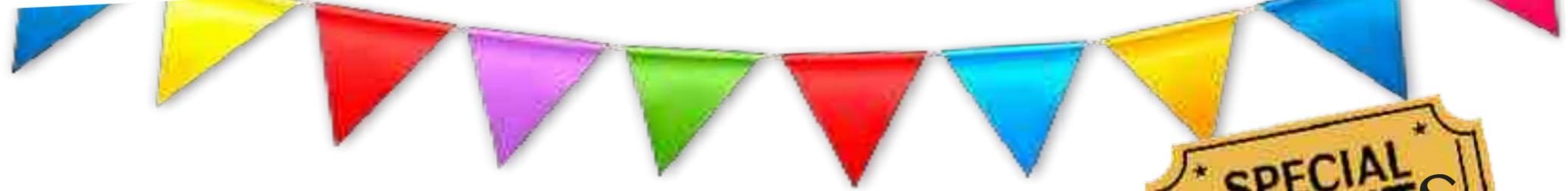
Initiated by Tracy Nichols who wanted to organise a community event for people including herself to be able to share their stories from being victims to survivors. The night was a great success with very positive feedback and attended by over 120 people.

Guest Speakers Included
Louise Nicholas, Dave Macpherson, Sue Moroney, Michelle Jackson, Sam Taylor, Jo Wrigley and other real stories from survivors. Supported by NZ Police, Neighbourhood Support, Western Community Centre, Vision Complete and Womens Refuge.









EVENTS

Throughout the year the centre supports and facilitates a number of community events. These involve hundreds of volunteers all willing to contribute to their community.

For almost four decades the Western Community Centre has seen the value in bringing our residents together and making this community a great place for our families!

Chill in the Park



Treats in the Park



Craft Extravaganza's



Waitangi Day



Thanks



A big thanks to



CHILL IN THE PARK



18

tonne of snow



18 Tonnes Of Snow Falls In Nawton!

As it does each year for the past 8 years, snow fell in Nawton for the annual Chill in the Park event. This year went bigger than ever before and braved changing weather to bring a smile to the end of the childrens holidays. After the 18 tonnes of snow, one of the highlights of the event was the return of Hamilton West's very own Idol show 'Nawton's Got Talent'. With a max age of 16, multiple youngsters showed what they were made of with a mixture of singing, comedy and dance acts wowing the crowd. 3 judges including Hamilton's young star 'Verity', event MC Tauji Johnson & award winning Western Community Centre volunteer Tricia Jenkin gave their rulings and advice.

The winner of the annual event was young Blake Cammock from Imperious Dance company, unanimously declared the winner by the judges for his stunning hip hop dance act. All entrants won prizes and Blake took away a \$50 Supermarket voucher. Nawtons Got Talent did return to Chill in the Park next year. Get practicing for next year kids!

Just as the talent quest finished the sky opened up with a rippling and sonorous peel of thunder that sent everyone rushing inside for more pics with Elsa, the live concert from Coral, the yummy indoor food stalls and the free photobooth photos. After the weather cleared again the snow was back in vogue as people grabbed some of the last of the better weather. For many it "was the best part of the holidays" and they're all looking forward to doing it all again next year.





The Craft Extravaganza's have been a great success with over 3,000 people attending the two events. The unique stall line up was fantastic and feedback on the day was really positive with people requesting the events take place again. Thank you to Aaron Woolley for the hard work and the many hours he put into making the days a success. As well as raise funds for the centre it was great that our centre was able to support well over a 100 groups of people selling their handmade items and providing them with a way they can promote themselves and make some income.





Thank You
Te Rūnanga o Kirikiriroa



*Treats
in the
Park*
celebrating
15 Years

Treats in the Park reaches 15-Year Anniversary

by Beckah Hudson and Tania Baptista - waikatoindependent

October 31, 2017 marked a successful 15 years for the Halloween event Treats in the Park, hosted by the [Western Community Centre](#) at Elliot Park in Nawton, Hamilton.

The event has been an annual occurrence since 2003, but the Western Community Centre had their first run of the event in 1998. A public community meeting held that year is credited for starting the event, as parents were concerned with the safety of their children when trick-or-treating late into the night.

“

The event has been consistently growing since it became an annual occurrence, and is now one of the biggest in the community with more than 2500 children attending this year.

Manager of the Western Community Centre, Neil Tolan, said the number of children attending the event usually ranges from 1500-2000 children. “The children get little treat tickets, so we’re able to gauge the numbers pretty well. Last year we had around 2100 children, so this year we made enough treats for 2500 because we don’t want any kids to miss out.”

The large attendance numbers mean that the Community Centre has to be careful how much they advertise, so it does not get too large for them to handle. “The word is definitely out there, and a lot of people know what’s happening,” Tolan said.

Instead, the event is mainly advertised through word-of-mouth in the community.

When asked about the importance of the event, Tolan mentioned tradition and how the event has become part of the community culture. “A lot of the people who used to come as kids, now come with their kids to the event, so it’s become a tradition for many people.”

”

A lot of the people who used to come as kids, now come with their kids, so it’s become a tradition for many people



While the event is aimed primarily at children there are a range of activities, such as a skate competition run by Htown Skate Project, costume competitions, treat stations, food stalls, inflatable castles, local entertainment, and information stalls.

Nathan Morgan, Events Coordinator and Youth Development Worker said the event is supported in many different ways through “a cool team of staff, an important Board of Trustees and our awesome funders, the Hamilton City Council, Trust Waikato, Vehicle Imports Direct and Rick from Funworks Inflatable Rides”. These sponsorships help cover some of the costs of the event, but in recent years the Community Centre has introduced a \$5 charge for children wanting to collect items at the treat stalls to help make the quality of the event grow with its size.



The Western Community Centre is always trying to improve the event each year, but they say the biggest aspects of the event are the treat stations, the costumes and the community culture.

Tolan said one of the main areas for improvement is getting more community groups involved. “We want to get more groups to run their activities at the event to support it and our community.”

The community in the area is diverse, and the Western Community Centre likes the event to reflect that. “There’s a range of different people, different lifestyles, different socioeconomic backgrounds. There are families and friends, and everyone in the community is welcome,” Tolan said.

The Western Community Centre crossed off another successful and expectation-exceeding event, and Tolan reflected on the achievement of the event going for 15 years.

“I am really proud. It’s great that we can say we’ve done a big chunk of this. Every year it gets better and we see rewards. It’s a lot of work, but on the night when we see the community together and happy children and families, that’s what makes it worthwhile for us,” Tolan said.

Morgan added, “it’s an amazing thought having been part of one of the Waikato’s hugest ‘treats’ events, and accomplishing a very important community venture and milestone”.





(R) Verity and her Twin (L) Naomi after their performance

This is the fourth year now that Verity Howells has performed for the event and was accompanied by her twin sister Naomi Howells. B performed like real rock stars, entertaining the crowd as they cheered them along.

They prepare for the event just minutes before they could reach the event on their way in the car putting on their Halloween outfit

and makeup, Verity mentioned that “We finish school at 3.15pm and just scoot right up to the community centre”.

The atmosphere makes it is easy for new families to go to the event and feel as if they fit in.

Indiana Maher and her father Vaughan Oliver spent their first Halloween at Treats in the Park this year, as Vaughan believed it would be a safe alternative to trick-or-treating. He said one benefit you can see as soon as you arrive is that “it’s safe and it’s cool because it is set up for Halloween, as opposed to people’s houses where they may not want trick-or-treaters”.

He believed it was a good alternative to traditional trick-or-treating, and that it offered something different than many other events. “You can see different groups of people. There are police, educational stalls, and organisations that are anti-family violence. All of these things benefit the community directly, so it’s awesome to see them here.”

For those who are new to the event like Vaughan and his daughter, the Western Community Centre Facebook page allows people in the area to connect with each other any time of the year, and keep up with updates for the event.



Vaughan dressed as Uncle Fester from the Addams Family, with his daughter Indiana dressed as Catwoman.

*treats
in the
park*
celebrating
15 Years





Tauí Johnson has been the MC for the event for more than 10 years now.

He is well familiarised with the event and the crowd so he just turns up on the day of the event, does a bit of mic testing, and is ready to go.

Taking down notes on the spot and coming up with things to say is not easy but for Tauí, who is now so synchronised with the event, it is a piece of cake. Johnson said he returns every year just to see every child grow up.

He meets up with the directors of the event a few weeks or days before the event and discuss the changes that have been made for the current year so he can entertain the crowd.

Each year there is a new ride or stall. This year they had the safety ware stall that was an informative and, at the same time fun, stall for the kids where they learnt home safety organised by Safekids Aotearoa.



Experts in unintentional child injury prevention



For many people in New Zealand, the excitement for Halloween begins in October, but in Sharyn Ann Comer's home, the anticipation begins many months before. She and her daughters have attended the event for the past three years, and in recent years her five-year-old daughter Cassie has begun asking in January when Halloween is and when they can go to the event again.

Sharyn spoke about her favourite memory of the event, saying that in a previous year when they went to get their tickets stamped, a volunteer complimented Cassie on her teeth because they look like vampire teeth. "Ever since then, she's been so happy, saying 'oh I've got vampire teeth!' She says that to everyone now."

With Treats in the Park being a staple event in their family, she stated that the thing she enjoys most is the time it gives her to spend with her daughters. "We get that time together, we get to dress up, we get to go out into the community. They get little treats, and they get to go on bouncy castles as well."

"These events that the Community Centre does, allows us to participate in things that we usually wouldn't get to do."

She credited the Western Community Centre for making the event possible, saying that the low price point and numerous activities on offer helps make it accessible to many.

The event accessibility and atmosphere are why people such as the de Wild family attend every year.





Plan of Action

Treats in the Park is an event that does not start and end just in one day but involves a planning process of months as it has to organise an event for a massive crowd.

During a meeting before a Treats in the Park night, conducted at the community centre in preparation for the event, someone suggested giving the kids some seeds they could plant in the gardens. So every year they do sunflower seeds, and then they might do beans or pumpkins.



The event begins with the packing of around 20,000 candies and more than 50,000 sunflower and pea seeds, for all the little participants that attend the event and take part in the best-dressed competition.



Several volunteers came together to help the community centre pack these sweets and seeds and this preparation starts two to three months before the event as every treat and seed is packed individually.

Then there is the increase in volunteers, there is a lot of people who want to be involved, so maximising everyone's hours they have to give in, so that takes a bit of co-ordinating as well. Organiser Neil said it was pretty hectic on the night of the event. "So it's making sure we've got lots of volunteers on the ground, making sure people have got drinks of water out there, because it's quite hard to get breaks for all of us."

This preparation began at around 1pm in the afternoon and was all set up by 3pm as they were already organised with the display of the event.

Over the Years



*treats
in the
park*
celebrating
15 Years

Eric and Jenni de Wild have been bringing their family to the event since their sons were younger. Their youngest son Joshua was born six years ago and has been attending the event his whole life.

Joshua was born with Spina Bifida, which Jenni said can make it a little harder to go to many different events.



Explaining further on the subject, she said that “Josh was in hospital earlier in the day and he was so tired, so we weren’t going to go, but he gets so excited about it and he wanted to go anyway”.

Coming to the event paid off, as Joshua won a certificate and a prize in the first costume competition of the night. He excitedly shouted about the pack of cards won for best costume in the competition, and how much he loved playing at the event.

While Joshua played at a stall with his dad, Jenni spoke about the people who go to the event, saying that “everyone is so open and

there’s no judgement from anybody because everyone is having too much fun”. She said this makes it easier for the family to relax.





to create
in the
park
celebrating
15
Years

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Entertainment Co.



Zinzan sanding it back!



Over 20 of our local youth gave us a hand with the sanding, prep work and painting. Some helped for 5 mins some helped for hours, thanks everyone it's looking great

Always heaps of goodness available!



We have tons of information.



Free public phone to make calls.

1kg Tiger Worms



Western Walkers Mondays & Thursdays 10am

Walking for an hour at your own pace Start and Finish at The Western Community Centre Finish with a hot or cold drink



EMPLOYMENT RIGHTS CLINIC

BOARDING PASS YWRC THE WORLD

WHY IT MATTERS

We have Tables and Chairs for Hire!

WEEKEND DEAL! CHAIRS \$2, TABLES \$6 EACH.

Western Community Centre

WESTERN CITY SPORTS at ELLIOT PARK, Senior Touch Competition, 5.30pm onwards, Wednesday Evenings

Western Community Centre COMMUNITY DISCO

Wednesday 16TH Of MAY 4:00pm - 6:00pm

Justice of the Peace AVAILABLE Tuesday's 10.30am - 12pm

CHEAP DOG REGO & MICROCHIPPING \$35

Hamilton West Community Network

Meet Jacinda Wednesday 6 September 8-9am

HAMBATS

we do food together

The Western Community Centre shared a Page

WORKPLACE FIRST AID Full Course \$169

Hamilton Dinsdale Toastmasters

Relationships Counselling at WCC

Yoga

Community Day hosted by Te Wānanga o Aotearoa

Hamilton West Community Network

Meet Jacinda

Universal Love Frequencies

EMPLOYMENT RIGHTS CLINIC

Industry Training Solutions

English Language Classes

Yoga

Community Day

Hamilton West Community Network

Meet Jacinda

Universal Love Frequencies

EMPLOYMENT RIGHTS CLINIC

LOOKING FOR WORK? KiviStaff

English Language Classes

Yoga

Community Day

Hamilton West Community Network

Meet Jacinda

Universal Love Frequencies

EMPLOYMENT RIGHTS CLINIC

It's not OK - presentation by Vic Tomati

Wednesday's from 9.30am-11.30am

SKATE COMP

NAWTON Skatecove

GET WORK READY FOR FREE

Māori Women's Welfare League Christmas Pamper Day

WELFARE LAW SEMINAR



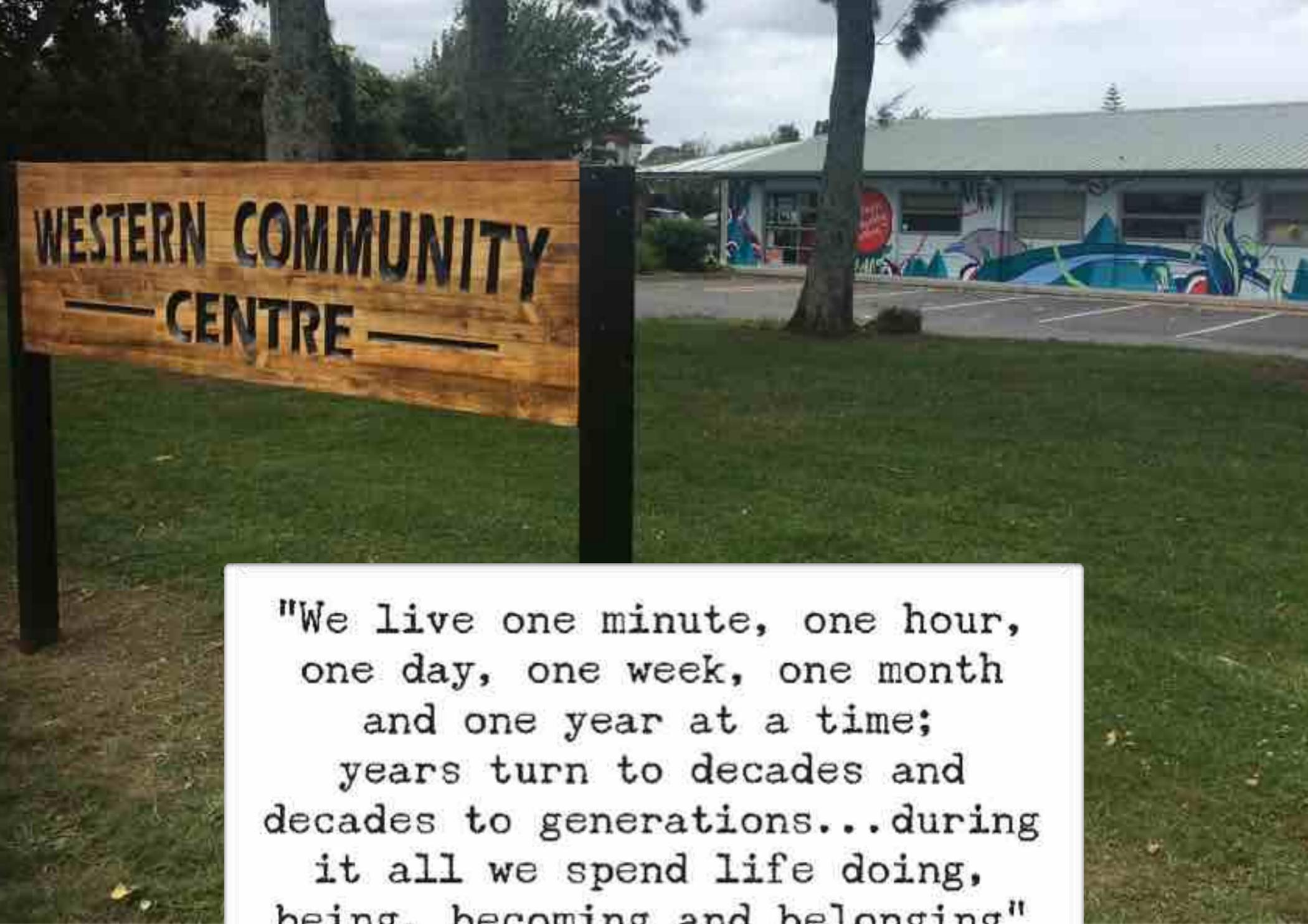
Wonderment at Western Community Centre

The Western Community Centre has a new look thanks to muralist Paul Be. The previously dark grey front to the building is now covered in faces, birds, flowers, and abstract shapes.

"I wanted to create artwork that was welcoming to everyone and that reflected the community that use this space. The centre is an incredibly active hub, so the artwork needed to reflect that vibrancy", says Paul. "I met a lot of great locals while painting it, who were really excited about the artwork."

The project was arranged by the Western Community Centre and supported by Creative Community Scheme funding. Paul worked with local youth to complete the work.





"We live one minute, one hour,
one day, one week, one month
and one year at a time;
years turn to decades and
decades to generations...during
it all we spend life doing,
being, becoming and belonging"

(Christenson & Townsend, 2004)



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