



2021 AGM Devonport Community House Manager's Report

The community house has had a busy 12 months, working around lockdowns to keep supporting our hirers and local community.

Here are some of our highlights:

School Holiday Programme

Early this year the audit for our School Holiday Program accreditation by the **Ministry of Social Development** (MSD) and **Out of School Care Network** (OSCAR) was successful, highlighting our commitment to delivering the highest standard of care for our children. Throughout the previous 12 months we have received more than **1,000 daily bookings** from local families throughout the community. Well done to Mana Harknett and her team: Nalarr, Aliyah and Madak.

The Devonport Ethical Market

This is run in the hall, coinciding with the Devonport Santa Parade in December. It continues to grow in popularity with hundreds of attendees at the most recent event.

Shopper's Run

A big thanks to **Paul Clifford**, our volunteer driver, who continues to take local senior citizens on their weekly shopping run to New World in the DCH van. Also a big thanks to **Devonport New World** who kindly donates 5c for every dollar spent by these shoppers. We look forward to expanding to more locals on a regular basis!

The Devonport Walkers

Meeting up three times per week, our local walking group continues to grow each year. I've been told the average age is starting to creep up, although I think points to the longevity of the friendships nurtured along the way.

Community lead Activities

Both our **Wednesday Morning Playgroup** and **Table Tennis** group are now led by their participants and have been well attended. The Table Tennis group seems to be limited only by the number of tables available to them. We look forward to creating more interest groups like these that can use our facilities on a regular basis.

REGULAR GROUPS

We currently have over **30 different groups** who use the community house on a regular basis, some multiple times every week. Our current **monthly figures** show more than **150 bookings**, over **250 hours** usage with approx. **1600 people** coming through our doors.

We value the support from some of our long-standing groups including:

Shotokan Karate
Yoga with David Noon
Tai Chi with Marie Mills
Toy Library
Friday Art Group
Leisure Painters
Knitting Friendship
Sports 4 Tots
Stitch 'n' B*tch
Intergenerational Get-together.

We're also really excited with our recent new additions to the house:

Kuaun Gracie's Jiu Jitsu
Devonport Repair Cafe
Sarah Ostergaard's Mum Squad
Te Reo Maori
Elemental Music Meditation

.... Where to from here?

Since Justine and I joined the team in June, our efforts have been focussed on refreshing the house and looking at ways to enhance our position within the community.

A few of our initial actions:

Marketing & Social Media

Having Justine on board as our dedicated marketing and social media specialist has made the community house more visible to the local community and generated more engagement.

Online Booking System

We've just upgraded to an online booking system to make it easier for the public to find space, book and pay all online without having to wait for us to arrange it.

Big Clean Out

We've cleaned out and repurposed lots of old furniture and things we don't use, with help from the **Devonport Recycling Centre** (and their truck!). This has helped create more usable space within the house.

Developing a "Super Community"

We are very privileged to have **John Raeburn** offering his time and experience to develop our community house into a more integrated community hub rather than solely a venue for hire. John was one of the founders of NZ's first community house in Beach Haven and was also involved with the formation of our own Devonport Community House. We look forward to seeing how we can transform using this "Super Community" model.

In general, I'd love to see the community house being used by more and more of the community... to become a place where locals meet up, learn, share advice, make connections and make use of our wonderful facilities to strengthen our local community. I'm excited by the potential of where we can take it.