



OTAGO NEIGHBOURHOOD SUPPORT NEWSLETTER

Otago Neighbourhood Support Connecting Communities

The Covid Pandemic continues to change the way we live, work, and have fun. This has required ongoing adjustments, big and small.

In the last 6 months Otago Neighbourhood Support, thanks to the updates and resources from our fantastic team in Wellington, and through the commitment and dedication of our supporters has adapted quickly and well. There has been increasing interest in joining Neighbourhood Support.

Thanks to you all, for the phone calls, visits, emails, attendance at get togethers and trainings. Some of you have organized local events just for your street. **Did you know there is a simple DCC Grant available that may be able to help you with your own local gatherings?** Check out the DCC Neighbourhood Matching Grant here is the link or call 477 4000 www.dunedin.govt.nz/services/funding-andgrants/neighbourhood-matching-grant.

These challenging times have demonstrated the value of knowing our neighbours, and our communities along with being part of a nationwide organization with key partners NZ Police and Civil Defence. Partnering with others, particularly Civil Defence Emergency Management and the Dunedin City Council we are reviewing our learnings from the lockdown and adapting to the new environment that we all live in.

Connected communities thrive, are safer and great places to live. Neighbourhood Support is a fantastic organization to be part of when challenges hit, but our organization has a tremendous role in looking out for others, welcoming new people to our communities, every day.

Over the next 12 months we plan to come to an area near you. We look forward meeting you and learning about your community.

Keep up the great work everyone!

Joy Davis
Regional Coordinator



**SEPTEMBER
2020**

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From the Otago District Representative

You would have been forgiven for thinking that summer was here when walking into the Mid-Winter Lunch that we recently assisted with at the East Taieri Church. The warm atmosphere and the warmth that radiated by those in attendance certainly belied the cooler conditions outside. The guests were treated to a delicious 3 course meal while also joining in with some old fashioned songs and a quiz.



Community Constables are an integral part of our network and we are busy connecting with those in our area to see how Neighbourhood Support can work with them to create safer, more resilient and better connected communities. We do have great working relationships with some Community Constables but are working hard to develop those same relationships throughout our area.

It was evident during COVID that Technology and all the services that it can provide are very important and sometimes crucial to day to day living. Areas of concern to some, were internet banking and access to government sites. As soon as Covid level restrictions are lifted, we plan to run Tech Savvy. A 2-hour session with partners ANZ and MSD where members of the public can learn how to access their funds and pay accounts without having to go into the bank or send a cheque. They can also learn how to access government sites such as MSD and what benefits they may be eligible for.

As soon as we are able we will be running Tech Savvy. Look out for the publicity around it.

We have many exciting projects coming up that benefit the community. If you would like to learn more about what we do and who we are then please contact Otago Neighbourhood Support on the contact details supplied.

Jacqui Hyde
District Representative



Recent mid-winter lunch

**OTAGO
NEIGHBOURHOOD
SUPPORT
CHARTIABLE TRUST**

**ANNUAL
GENERAL
MEETING** | **TUESDAY
13 OCTOBER
2020**

**5.30pm in the
Board Room at
Presbyterian
Support Otago,
Moray Place,
Dunedin**



Constable Allan Lynch of Middlemarch Police

Being the sole station officer based in Middlemarch, covering a large geographical area of the Strath Taieri and with Police help a good 40 - 60 minutes away, I constantly rely on help from my local community and community groups.

Policing issues in rural areas is a lot different than urban policing. Having the support from community members and community groups like Otago Neighbourhood Support is vital in maintaining community reassurance and preventive policing.

With the support of the lovely team at Neighbour Support over the last 14 months they have assisted me in securing funding and providing me with a defibrillator for my patrol vehicle. This piece of life saving equipment is going to be vital for saving someone's life one day, in rural areas AED are often few and far between.

Otago Neighbourhood Support has provided food vouchers for the 'Food Fairies' in Middlemarch, a group who provide food to people in the community. These rural women sure can cook and I hate to admit but sometimes I wish I was sick. Another great example of how rural communities come together and help everyone.

One of the biggest issues in my area of late is unlawful hunting. Once again Otago Neighbourhood Support step up to the mark and the three amigos (**JJL**) Joy, Jacqui and Lois saw an issue and provided a solution. They obtained funding through the Strath Taieri Community Board and we managed to get funding for the erection of unlawful hunting signs in the district.

We are currently in uncertain times and as a community we need to pull together, work together and help each other out. Be safe.

Constable Allan Lynch
Middlemarch Police Station



Our grateful thanks to our sponsors:

Alexander McMillan Trust
Taieri Lions
Dunedin City Motors



NEWS FROM THE REGION

Marcella Cotton - Mosgiel Neighbourhood Support

Two years ago, my husband, Neil, and I moved to Mosgiel after years of looking to where we should be in our retirement.

We were one of three households when we first moved to our current house. As houses were built and people moved in there were thefts of tools and outdoor items, I was determined to meet and greet our neighbours and give them an opportunity to get to know one another and look out for each other's belongings. Knocking on doors is a little bit daunting as you are not sure how you will be received but with the common goal of safety and community all but one household of two adjoining streets have joined up.

We have gone together a couple of times in each others homes. We have celebrated some birthdays together, getting to know each other a little better even if not all becoming close friends. We at least know who to look out for and who does not live in the neighbourhood and may very well get asked what they are doing here. Lots of people walk or drive around our cul de sac.

During lockdown, we phoned or emailed to check people were OK, or during daily walks, stopped and listened to people in this and other areas. We did manage to have an ANZAC distanced get together during lockdown organised by a saxophone playing neighbour. I made and individually bagged ANZAC biscuits and ribboned sprigs of rosemary for remembrance of those who lost their lives fighting for our freedom. I typed out and read "In Flanders Field". I made a red woollen poppy to wear – amazing how resourceful one can be when there is little available for crafts. The Saxophonists played, "In the Mood", NZ and Australian National Anthems, Māori Battalion, White Cliffs of Dover and the Last Post – it was very moving. Neighbours came to within a few metres, some stood at their fences.

Neighbourhood Supports provides an opportunity to make a difference in your community. The organisation aims to nurture resilient safe communities, positively influencing outcomes. As children grew up and moved and surrounding neighbours moved, we had few close

friends in the area we lived before so as we were getting older it was imperative to know our neighbours and be part of a community. I had been part of Neighbourhood Support before so knew its worth.



Food Stuffs NZ /Neighbourhood Support NZ

Foodstuffs NZ generously presented NSNZ with \$20,000 of vouchers, to be allocated to groups working in and for community.

Each NSNZ region was encouraged to apply. ONS was allocated \$1500.00 and we have had great pleasure presenting these to:



North Dunedin Community Constable Brendan Thompson



Mosgiel Police, North East Valley Project Middlemarch Constable Alby Lynch (to present to the Strath Taieri Food Faires)



South Dunedin Community Network



Youth East Taieri/ Saddle Hill Foundation Trust

All these individuals or organizations must be interacting as an emergency resource and or running free community facing programmes. We have taken photos and will be compiling a portfolio of stories to send back to Food Stuffs and NSNZ.

Central Otago

On June 15th, the ONS team at Alexandra hosted us along with Central Otago CDEM Officer (Matt Alley) and Cromwell Neighbourhood Support rep (Mercedes Fischer). Fantastic to have a representative from Roxburgh keen on establishing a group.

It was extremely helpful meeting for all concerned as we shared our successes and challenges, (particularly regarding the Lockdown).

We asked questions and generally got each other up to speed as to what was going on for each one of us, our responsibilities, and the communities, we work in.

The Alexander folk then served up a delicious warming lunch, on what was a very cold day!



Connecting with our Partners



Taieri Age Connect was established to provide older residents in the area with a Drop In Centre for information on clubs and services offered, as well as providing social activities. Our goal is to provide a warm and welcoming environment and to encourage older people to connect to the community by social interaction.

During 2019 we were successful in gaining 3 community grants for improvements in our hall and meeting room – these included \$15,000 from Alexander McMillan Trust, \$10,000 from NZ Lotteries Commission Community Trust and \$5000 from Bendigo Valley Trust. These funds were used to install 3 heatpumps in the Hall and 1 in our meeting room, Double glazing of the windows in the meeting room as well as in the main hall, the meeting rooms were painted and new carpet was laid.

Our HUB situated in the Senior Citizens Club, 5a Harstonge Avenue, is open every Wednesday from 10am-1pm for information or for those who just want to come along for a cuppa and chat. We have a book exchange and puzzles and scrabble on hand.

Our Art Group meets from 11am-12 noon on Wednesdays and Cards and Bowls are held on a Thursday afternoon. We started a Community Singing Group late in 2019 which is held every 2nd Friday – we are very lucky to have Christine McKinlay who offered her services as our pianist – we encourage anyone to come along who enjoys singing, regardless of ability.

The Hall is also rented out to various organisations at a modest \$20 per hour hire.

We would like to acknowledge Campbell and Sons Funeral Services for their extremely generous support in formatting and printing our Posters and Newsletters for our marketing.

We have had railings installed on the ramp into the Senior Citizens Hall – thanks to Mosgiel Lions who donated \$200 towards this project.

We are supporting Age Concern Otago with the seminars that they offer in Mosgiel – so please come along and be involved – Planning for the Future-The Hard Stuff – October 5th & 12th. All enquiries – 021 2543232

Trish Didham
Vice President



Connecting with our Partners Safer Accessways

The Mosgiel-Taieri Safer School Streets project is a partnership of the Dunedin City Council, Mosgiel – Taieri Community Board and Mosgiel and Outram schools to improve road safety and encourage active travel on school journeys. Project partners have secured funding from the Waka Kotahi's NZ Transport Agency's Innovating Streets for people fund, to implement trial infrastructure this summer. The aim is to test new crossing points and intersections and we'll be asking the public for feedback to inform permanent designs. You will be hearing more about this shortly.

Simone Handwerk
Senior Transport Planner
Transport Strategy

Harriet Toa Area Co-ordinator Accessibility

Hello, Kia ora, Talofa, As-salaam 'alaykum

I have the pleasure of being a Local Area Coordinator for AccessAbility here in Dunedin which means that I get to work in our amazing communities working with people to be connected and participating in typical, everyday opportunities. This aligns beautifully with the Neighbourhood Support philosophy of safe, resilient, CONNECTED communities. I work with people to shape an individualised approach to living their good life, starting with a conversation to get to know each other and identify what is important to them. There is no formal referral process and people can contact me directly or be introduced by friends, family, neighbours, services or community organisations. My role is to work with people to find practical solutions wherever possible and build supportive relationships and networks.

We all have the right to a good life and for people who live with other challenges, like disabilities, sometimes there can be multiple barriers that prevent this happening. I have the joy of working with people so they can take steps toward what they want in life, and work with community to create inclusive spaces and opportunities. The more connected we are in our lives, the more opportunities there are to break down these barriers, for ourselves and for others. Neighbourhoods, and neighbours supporting neighbours, play a huge part in people feeling and being connected. Working in with Neighbourhood Support can offer an opportunity for people to be of value and valued in their community.

I am easily contacted via phone or email and am happy to have a chat around the kitchen table with you about whatever is important to you!

Harriet Toa – 027 500 2281
or harriet.toa@accessability.org.nz

Saddle Hill Community Board Desk Top Exercise

We recently joined with the Southern Coastal Emergency Response Group and local Neighbourhood Support to undertake a desk top exercise where the scenario was that there had been a severe earthquake. The group worked through various scenarios, including determining the appropriate actions they would need to take. We all found it extremely useful.

Otago Neighbourhood Support gratefully acknowledges funding support from:

The Dunedin City Council – City Service Grant
- **\$19,000.00**

The Bendigo Valley Sports & Charity Foundation
- **\$5,000.00**

The Strath Taieri Community Board
- **\$1,000**

These grants assist ONS with ongoing operational costs and enabled our organisation to purchase resources, including rural signs and information packs.

ONS Board of Trustees, staff and volunteers acknowledge with gratitude this wonderful contribution to our organisation.

Our thanks to Sophie Inglis, Bayfield High School student Sophie Inglis 'gifted' ONS with 20 hours of voluntary work this month. Thanks to Sophie's efforts we now have clean offices, filing cabinets and our info packs are sorted. We loved having Sophie share some of her time with us and the ONS team thank her for getting to know us in such a positive way.

Lois Scott-Muir

COVID-19 Website

We are really pleased to see that our work during the COVID response has not gone unnoticed and we are now featured on the Unite for Recovery website! Check this out: www.uniteforrecovery.govt.nz/community/community-wellbeing/

Looking Ahead

- Installation of Buddy benches in Mosgiel Schools
- Community Preparedness Workshop
- Local meetings across the city and province

Brighton/ Coastal - August 3rd Mosgiel Taieri Coordinator Jacqui Hyde and RC Joy Davis joined with members of the Saddle Hill Community Board, and residents from the Brighton area for a Table Top Exercise.

Due to the changes in ONS staff this year and also some changes in relation to membership in the Brighton area, it was suggested we follow up this meeting with a general meeting for residents along that part of the coast with a view to revitalizing Neighbourhood Support in that area.

Our thanks to the Brighton Surf Club for offering their facilities. We will report on this meeting in our December newsletter.



HOW MUCH DOES IT COST TO JOIN NEIGHBOURHOOD SUPPORT?

Neighbourhood Support is always **FREE** to join!

HOW DO I GET INVOLVED?

There's many ways to get involved and support the work that we do!

To learn more visit:
www.neighbourhoodsupport.co.nz

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