



Ōtautahi
community
housing
trust

Our Chat

NOVEMBER 2021

Kia ora. Ngā mihi nui, he mihi makatia ki a koutou. Hello. Warm greetings to you all.

Protecting against Covid

Seeing local shops and even the bus exchange named in the Ministry of Health's daily COVID-19 updates showed why it's so important we get ready to live with the virus.

As COVID-19 is amongst us we need to do all we can to protect ourselves and the people we love.

It's been wonderful to hear from so many ŌCHT tenants who have taken this to heart and either begun or finished their vaccination journey. Many people attended the Super Saturday vaccination events and the special pop-up clinics that continue to be planned around the city. I'd like to thank everyone who has let us know they've been vaccinated.

It's also been wonderful to see so many people doing the everyday things—mask wearing, sanitising, social distancing and using the COVID-19 tracing app or manually signing in—to keep each other safe. Thank you for your efforts.

We've also heard from people who are worried about the misinformation they've been hearing about the virus and vaccination. If you are unsure about the virus or vaccination, or you're concerned about getting vaccinated, please talk with a trusted health professional, such as your GP or a support agency.

ŌCHT has been in touch with Community and Public Health to see what we can do to support peoples' access to vaccination, too. Soon, we hope we can let you know when mobile vaccination units might visit our larger complexes.

In the meantime, please stay safe and please, get vaccinated.

Ngā mihi mui
Cate Kearney
ŌCHT chief executive



Tilaga Sethupathy is the Overall Winner in this year's Housing Heroes Awards.

Our housing heroes celebrated

Tilaga Sethupathy's modest reaction confirms why she's the Overall Winner in the 2021 Housing Heroes Awards.

"Thank you so much," the Angus Courts resident said. "Thank you, but I'm not sure what I've done to deserve this."

Housing Heroes Awards were presented to 37 people at a ceremony at Maurice Carter Courts last month.

The awards recognise ŌCHT tenants who go above and beyond for their neighbours and community.

They were nominated by ŌCHT tenants and the event was run by the Tenant Advisory Group.

Tilaga's was the last citation ŌCHT board chairman Alex Skinner read to the crowd.

"Tilaga is always there to help anyone and everyone; never asks questions and never asks for anything in return," the nomination read.

"Just an all round wonderful tenant and well respected by all."

Healthy homes advocate Stephen McPaike received a Special Award for his focus on the wider ŌCHT community, including championing the Warm and Dry Initiative upgrades to ŌCHT homes.

Former Tenant Advisory Group member Jim McMillan received the other Special Award conferred at the ceremony, for his work as the first TAG chairman.

Jim retired earlier this year from a group he called "a wonderful asset, where tenants and ŌCHT can work together".

TAG awards coordinator Noeline Monsef said many people were doing wonderful things in their communities.

She congratulated Tilaga and those who won special awards, the five people who were highly commended and the 29 community—spirited people who won Housing Heroes awards.

The judges were impressed with the quality and number of the nominations—the 37 nominations they received from ŌCHT tenants was a new record.

There's more on our website: www.ocht.org.nz

Peter says using e-cars is easy-as

Peter wouldn't be without an ŌCHT/ Zilch Car Sharing e-car.

"It's an important part of my transport. So inexpensive, so handy, so easy to use – more people should make use of it."

Peter is a regular user of the two Nissan Leafs based at Karoro Lane as part of a two year pilot programme.

They're supplied by ŌCHT and managed by Zilch Car Sharing.

ŌCHT tenants from anywhere in the city can book and use the cars at significantly reduced rates.

Peter joined Zilch after deciding ride sharing was cheaper than buying another petrol car.

"There are so many hidden costs in car ownership that people forget about.

"Petrol is one thing, but there's also servicing and insurance, warrants of fitness and registration costs.

"When you think about what you use a car for, it's worth thinking about the alternatives."

Peter uses the scheme three or four times a month, mixing it up with other public transport options.



Peter says using an electric ride share car is cheap and easy.

"At \$8 an hour, it's cheaper than any car and it's two-thirds the cost of getting an electric scooter," he says.

Peter says joining and using the service is easy: "You register online with Zilch and they send a card within days.

"You can book the car online or using an app and you just swipe the card on the car scanner to get started."

The e-cars are easy to use, and Zilch has instructions on its website—Peter reckons it took him five minutes to get the hang of things.

"And after that, it was easy. Now I wouldn't be without it."

Gift cards offered in transport survey

More ŌCHT tenants can now be part of exciting research that we hope will help make community housing even better.

Canterbury, Lincoln, and Otago universities have been surveying tenants at or near ŌCHT's new Brougham St communities, to see how people get around and what difference providing new transport options makes.

They're now extending their research to all ŌCHT tenants — and the first 150 who take part will get a \$15 supermarket gift card to say 'thanks'.

Lincoln University researcher Helen Fitt says the research is going well, thanks to the support and help of those already surveyed, but that it needs input from more ŌCHT tenants.

"Now, we want to invite all other ŌCHT tenants to complete a similar survey. This will help us move towards our goal of helping New Zealand (and ŌCHT!) to design good housing and transport for happy and healthy Kiwis".

Surveys will soon land in letterboxes. To take part, fill it in and post it using the postage paid envelope, or complete it online: gettingaroundsurvey.canterbury.ac.nz.

The researchers would still love to hear from people at Hoiho, Karoro and Korimako lanes; Hastings St East, and Waltham and Tommy Taylor courts who missed out on the previous survey.

Helen can be contacted via email— helen.fitt@lincoln.ac.nz— or by calling 03 423 0482.

ŌCHT's e-vehicles are here for ALL tenants to use

Subsidised e-cars

- Based at Karoro Lane
- Managed by Zilch Car Sharing
- Sign up to Zilch to use
- You need to be over 21
- You need a full drivers licence
- Car bookings are made online
- Cars are unlocked using a swipe card
- Tenants pay low hourly rates

Free e-bikes

- Based at Karoro Lane
- Managed by Big Street Bikers
- Stored safely in a Locky Dock
- Sign up to BSB to use
- You need to be over 18
- Bikes can be reserved using a mobile app
- Bikes are unlocked via an app
- Free for ŌCHT tenants to use

For more visit www.ocht.org.nz/our-e-vehicle-services

There's more on our website: www.ocht.org.nz

Free digital training launched

ŌCHT's digital coaching service has started—and if you're keen to learn more about the digital world, more free courses are planned.

ŌCHT and training provider Kanorau Digital held the first two-day introductory group training sessions in the Harman Courts community lounge.

The classes are for people who told us they wanted help making the most of the digital world when we called during lockdown. We're planning sessions for everyone on the list.

Kanorau Digital supplies computers and wifi for the training, and trainers guide people through everything from turning a device on to setting up and using Google accounts.

After learning the basics, people then get access to four online training modules to use the digital world to communicate, to find information and even to shop and use online services.

Harman Courts tenant Barb was at the first training session.

She says digital training opens a world of possibilities.

"There is so much empowerment, it's such a supportive way of learning, it grows your confidence," Barb says.

"It's for all ages and cultures, and it's



Barb says the digital training sessions are fun, welcoming and open.

very welcoming and open, and that's important."

Anwar was also at the first session. He says free digital training will help him use online tools such as internet banking.

"You can find employment and get to the services you need. I think when you've got the confidence, you can do anything."

Vicky also enjoyed the class.

"I really feel like we are all in this together, we're learning valuable skills, we're relaxed and we can go at our own pace."

Want to know more?

Need help?

Call digital coach Jo Cantrick on 0800 624 456—or see the flyer in this newsletter.

Learn all this—for free—with Kanorau Digital

Digital Connections and Communication: Creating a Google account; using email, Calendar, Drive; editing and adding photos to a Google doc; accessing course materials on Kanorau Digital.

Digital Tools and Productivity: Advanced Google suite skills; creating and attaching files to emails; Google Slides, Photos, and keyboard shortcuts.

Digital Problem Solving: Using the internet to solve problems; effective searching; help resources; reliable sources; YouTube help and others.

Digital Life: Online security and digital safety; shopping, selling, banking—including what can go wrong and how to recover from it.

COVID-19 vaccinations

Need more information about where to get your COVID-19 vaccination?

To find vaccination clinics near you visit:
www.vaccinatecanterburywestcoast.nz

Or call the COVID-19 Healthline:
0800 358 5453

Spouting cleans

If it were laid in a straight line, there's enough spouting on ŌCHT homes to move water from Rolleston to downtown Christchurch.

We're not planning to do that, but we are planning to clean the spouting and downpipes at all homes and to wash down heaps of complexes.

We'll let you know when our contractors will be in your neighbourhood. Remember to close your windows and remove anything that might get in the way before they visit.

Garden tidying

Do you need help with the garden at your unit? We're offering a 25% discount on all tidies and removals of tenant garden areas booked for November and December.

The discounted rates are \$80 for a tidy, and \$180 for removal (a great, hassle-free option if gardening isn't your thing). You don't have to pay it all at once—it can be paid off at \$10 a week.

To book please call 0800 624 456.

There's more on our website: www.ocht.org.nz



Gowerton Place is nearing completion.



The new homes have roomy living areas.



Your Tenant Advisory Group (TAG) is welcoming new people—maybe you're our next new member!

We're tenant volunteers working together to make a difference in tenant life.

We're from all sorts of backgrounds and have all sorts of different life experiences. There's a place for everyone!

We have monthly meetings where we hear about what ŌCHT is doing, and give ŌCHT our input and advice. We also organise heaps of activities, including Housing Heroes, bus trips and social events.

Joining TAG is easy

Call ŌCHT on **0800 624 456** or email admin@ocht.org.nz and ask to be put in touch with a TAG member.

We'd love to hear from you!

Learn more about TAG online:
ocht.org.nz/tenant-advisory-group-tag

Seventy new homes on the way

We're making great progress on new homes in Richmond and St Albans.

Exterior painting is all-but completed and landscaping has started at Gowerton Place, ŌCHT's new, 37-home community in Richmond.

Most kitchens and bathrooms, and carpet and vinyl, have been installed; paths are being laid and gardens are being shaped.

The homes face a large shared space that'll eventually have greenery, parking and even a pergola.

At Coles Place, St Albans, interior and exterior work on 33 new homes continues.

The homes are at various stages of completion. Some are gibbed and



Tradies hard at work at Coles Place.

swarming with sparkies, others are ready for their ceilings to be installed.

Coles Place is shaped around a central space that'll have plenty of greenery and parking. The homes are built as six, two-storey blocks.

Gowerton Place should be officially opened next month. Coles Place should be ready early in the new year.

Award winner

ŌCHT's 90-home Brougham St development is the first of its kind to receive a Christchurch Civic Trust Award.

It received a "Category A" award for "the social enterprise in re-establishing a community housing amenity in Sydenham that is environmentally sustainable".

The development is made up of Korimako Lane, Karoro Lane and Hoiho Lane. About 115 people live in the connected communities.

Lost your keys?

You can get a new key cut at James Bull Locksmiths, 25 Sandyford St (03 366 7123), during business hours.

There'll be a charge and you'll need to prove who you are by using the password you selected when you signed your tenancy agreement.

If you can't remember it, please give us a call and we'll help you update it before you need to use it!

If you have security concerns, you can contact us to have the locks changed.

Thank you!



Ōtautahi
community
housing
trust

Ōtautahi Community Housing Trust
Ground Floor, 61 Kilmore St, PO Box 54,
Christchurch 8140

FP 0800 624 456 LL 03 260 0058
admin@ocht.org.nz

[f @otautahicomunityhousingtrust](https://www.facebook.com/otautahicomunityhousingtrust)

www.ocht.org.nz