



Ōtautahi
community
housing
trust

Our Chat

February 2022

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

How ŌCHT's working during Covid-19 Response Red

New Zealand's now living and working at Covid-19 Response Level Red.

ŌCHT's an essential service so we can still do just about all the stuff what we usually do, with measures such as mask wearing and social distancing.

Visiting you: where possible, we'd like to meet you outside your home. If we come inside, we'll wear as mask and keep our distance.

Community lounges: they're closed while we're in Red, but they'll be used for digital and employment coaching.

Digital coaching: we're still having

one-on-one and small group training, with masks and social distancing. This happen in the community lounges, where possible.

Employment coaching: our Employment Service restarts soon; all Job Club and one-on-one sessions will happen with masks and social distancing.

Repairs and maintenance, and contracted works such as gardening: this happens as normal, with masks and social distancing. As usual, please give our team and contractors heaps of space when they're working.

You don't need a vaccine pass to visit our office because we're an essential service; all you need to do is wear a mask and maintain safe social distancing.

If you're coming to visit us, please call ahead to let us know you're coming in.

If you're exempt from wearing a mask, please keep a 2m distance from ŌCHT staff and contractors.

We're all double vaccinated at ŌCHT, and we're here to help. Please make sure you contact us when you need us—we'll keep doing what we can as we all deal with Covid-19.

Poem at home in special collection

Concord Place resident Jean Easton's work has been published in an anthology of poems.

'Concord Place' features in *More than a Roof*, a collection of poems about housing in New Zealand.

Publisher Landing Press selected her poem from more than 450 entries—but Jean's modest about her achievement.

"A published poet? Oh, I suppose I am," she says with a smile. "It's nice to be selected, but I'm just writing what I know."

There are more than 120 poems in the collection, including work by acclaimed poets, and people who have been homeless and have struggled to find a home.

Jean's lived at Concord Place since the mid-2000s and she enjoys turning to prose what she experiences living there.

"We get on here, we look out for each other," she says.

"Life's an experience and we're all experiencing it differently. I wouldn't have it any other way."

Read more at ocht.org.nz.

Concord Place

by Jean Easton

You hear different versions of social housing
if you listen to the news
but living in social housing
gives you different views.
It's like anything, everyone has a
different take.

In the end it's all about the effort you
make.

You can decide if social housing's for you
or if it's not what you want to do.

What your neighbour does is his to do
and doesn't have anything to do with
you.

As long as it doesn't cause you strife
just get on and enjoy your life.

So in Concord Place we're prepared for
all.

We're ready for how the cards may fall.

As published in *More than a Roof*
(Landing Press, 2021)



You'll find much more on our website: www.ocht.org.nz

Keep track of what's happening

Here's some of the work we'll be doing over the next few months:

Digital coaching

ŌCHT digital coach Jo Carrick is planning more one-on-one and group training sessions. Drop her a line on [0800 624 456](tel:0800624456) to learn more.

Employment service

Employment coach Lyn Blair is readying ŌCHT's employment service—and the popular Job Club—for the new year. If you're looking for work and would like help and support, give Lyn a call on [0800 624 456](tel:0800624456) to register or to learn more.

Covid-19 vaccination

We've helped vaccinators hold clinics in five communities and more might be planned in the next few months. In the meantime, there are many other clinics across the city—you can find one near you by visiting vaccinatecanterburywestcoast.nz or by calling the Covid-19 Healthline on [0800 358 5453](tel:08003585453).

Maintenance

We're responding to day-to-day maintenance requests as the government's Covid-19 response allows, as-well-as a heap of planned

work across the city, including:

- We've started upgrading homes at Wycla Place.
- We're painting the outside of several communities over the next few months. The first we'll visit include Knightsbridge Lane, Forfar Courts, Bartlett Street, Jennifer/Manor/Torquay, Veronica Place and Cedar Park.
- We're giving old car parks a new lick of paint at 41 communities over February and March. We'll let you know if and when we'll be painting in your neighbourhood.
- Planned path repair work is expected to start at some communities during February.
- Roof and gutter repairs will start at Concord Place in February, following-on from exterior maintenance and painting last year.

There's a lot more happening and we'll always let you know when we're planning to do work in your community.

Please keep an eye on your letterbox for updates from the ŌCHT team.

Maintenance visits

Our maintenance planners are visiting ten communities whose homes are due for big upgrades.

They've already visited Pickering Courts, where they explained the upgrade process and learned more about what people wanted.

They'll visit the other communities on the five-year upgrade list, one a fortnight, over the rest of the year. They'll text ahead to let people know they're coming.

Weeds are a growin'

The wet, warm weather has been good for gardens—but it's also been too good for the weeds.

ŌCHT's garden contractor can do one-off garden works for you if your garden's hard for you to maintain.

A tidy-up costs \$109 and can be paid off at \$5 a week. Replacing it with weed mats and bark is \$247, and can be paid off at \$10 a week.

To book please call [0800 624 456](tel:0800624456).

Covid cancels awards

We've taken the difficult decision to cancel this year's ŌCHT Garden Awards due to the uncertainty created by the ever-changing Covid-19 pandemic. We hope they will return next year.

Internet plan update

The government has yet to make a decision as to whether Enable can help ŌCHT get free internet into homes in Christchurch. Enable's a fibre infrastructure company and needs permission to offer wholesale internet to consumers. If successful, it'll offer broadband to ŌCHT, which we'll offer to tenants via a new, free, internet service.

New TAG leaders

The Tenant Advisory Group has elected experienced leaders to its top positions for 2022. Chairman Dave Wilson was re-elected. Noeline Monsef, who was chairwoman in 2021, is deputy chair. They're also TAG's first membership officers—they'll support people who want to learn more about, and join, TAG. To join TAG or learn more, visit:

ocht.org.nz/tenant-advisory-group-tag

Thank you!





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INTERNET PLAN UPDATE

We're still waiting to hear whether we can start an internet service for tenants in Christchurch.

We can't offer the service unless our partner, Enable, gets Government permission to work with us. They're still waiting.

You don't have to wait to get the internet—you can sign up to an internet provider.

There are lots of options out there.

But remember, some will charge a disconnection fee if you change providers. Please do your sums.

We'll let you know when we know whether we can start our service.

We still don't know when that'll be.

ŌCHT's digital coaching service is separate to our plan to get free internet to tenants' homes.

The digital coaching service continues—you can learn more about our digital coaching service on the other side of this flyer.

A current option

Many tenants already use a subsidised service available to community housing tenants. It's called **Skinny Jump**.

It costs \$5 for 30GB of data, which you can renew up-to five times a month. You can stop using it at any time and there's no closing fee.

ŌCHT isn't associated with the service and not all areas have coverage. These community partners can help you:

- ⇒ Shirley Library, 36 Marshlands Rd, Phone 941 7923
- ⇒ New Brighton Library, 213 Marine Pde, Phone 941 7923
- ⇒ Linwood Library, Eastgate Shopping Centre, Phone 941 7923
- ⇒ TechMate, 44 Braddon St, Addington. Phone 962 7244
- ⇒ Hornby Library, 8 Goulding Ave, Phone 941 7923
- ⇒ Rowley Resource Centre, 89 Rowley Ave, Phone 962 7244
- ⇒ Sumner Hub, 57 Nayland St, Phone 027 600 6076 weekdays
- ⇒ Mt Pleasant Community Centre, 3 McCormacks Bay Rd, Phone 962 7244



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**DIGITAL
COACHING
SERVICE**

Open your world—learn basic digital skills for free!

ŌCHT's got a new digital coaching service to support people to use digital technology.

We offer group learning and one-on-one support to ŌCHT tenants—and best of all, it's free!

Give us a call to start your digital journey!

Use our digital coaching service and get more from your digital devices!

- ⇒ Use email, video chat and social media
- ⇒ Shop on the web and use internet banking
- ⇒ Find, download and use free service apps
- ⇒ Enjoy movies, music and games
- ⇒ Stay safe and secure online
- ⇒ And much, much more!

GETTING HELP IS FREE AND EASY

Call 0800 624 456 to make a booking or get in touch with ŌCHT's Digital Coach



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**EMPLOYMENT
COACHING
SERVICE**

Find work with our **free** employment coaching service!

We know looking and preparing for work can be challenging—so we've got a free service to help.

Our job coach Lyn offers one-on-one job coaching to ŌCHT tenants who want to find work.

So if you're interested in kick-starting your work journey, give Lyn a call and you'll work together to get there!

We can help you grow your job searching tools and skills!

We'll help you:

- ⇒ Identify the skills you have
- ⇒ Find and use the resources that'll help you look for work
- ⇒ Create a CV and covering letters
- ⇒ Prepare and plan for interviews
- ⇒ Prepare for work

We'll also help with advice and support once you're in work—we're with you every step of the way!

IT'S EXCLUSIVE TO ŌCHT TENANTS

For free help call Lyn at the ŌCHT
Employment Service on 0800 624 456



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**Need our help?
Get in touch!**

**Call 0800 624 456
for all ŌCHT services**

Give us a call to

- let us know about things that need fixing
- talk about things related to your tenancy
- talk about things happening in your community
- make an appointment to see us (this is important during COVID)
 - learn more about joining the Tenant Advisory Group
 - book digital coaching or to talk to our digital coach
 - register with our employment service or chat to our employment coach

**We'll always do our best to link you
to the help you might need!**