

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



## Awash with prizes!

"Oh wow, it's awesome," Kayla says as the delivery teams set the washing machine near her laundry cupboard.

"Can you really control it with your phone? Hope it'll remind me when I'm loading it up with clean washing, I'm terrible for doing that," she joked.

Kayla's new high-spec, high-tech Miele washing machine was first prize in the ŌCHT Survey prize draw.

Tenants who completed the April-May tenant survey went into the draw for the machine or one of five gift vouchers. More than 800 surveys were filed - a record since surveying began.

Thanks again to everyone who completed their survey. Your opinions matter, and we will carefully analyse the survey results to implement positive changes based on your feedback.

And congrats Kayla and all winners!

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## Internet access 'opens up world'

Ray Davey's building his family tree, connecting with loved ones through video chats, and enjoying new shows on YouTube thanks to his new free internet connection.

"I didn't have the internet before as there's the cost factor. By the time you pay out, it's quite a chunk of my pension. And the modem is quite a big cost. I was using the data on my phone for all internet searches," Ray said.

Ray's gained new independence. He no longer needs to go to the library to get online and can pursue his interests from the comfort of his own home.

"It gives me independence and allows me to do my own thing at home. I still go out even though I have it. But it means I can do something different, watch something different."

Ray's one of many ŌCHT tenants enjoying two years of free Skinny Jump wireless internet, made possible through a collaboration between Enable, Skinny and ŌCHT.

In conjunction with the free internet service, ŌCHT's digital coach Jo Cantrick has been running digital training workshops across Christchurch since March.

These workshops cover a wide range of topics including digital banking, searching on Google, using social media and YouTube, online shopping, how to use Google Maps and how to borrow online books from the library.

Ray's an advocate of digital training and has an encouraging message for those who may be hesitant.

"What have you got to lose? You're opening up another window, opening up the world. You've got the world at your fingertips."

"When I first started I was scared of making mistakes but just stick with it, play around, you slowly learn."

"There's so much information out there if you want to learn things, and there's the social side of it."

"It's a learning process and so is life, so get on your bike and learn it."

**ŌCHT has a limited number of remaining Skinny Jump connections available for tenants who do not have the internet at home, who have email and an internet ready device. If you're interested in the free internet service or the training sessions, please call 0800 624 456.**

## Changing, growing needs help shape new communities

We're replacing the old and cold one-bedroom units at the old Carey Street social housing complex to tackle our city's need for family-sized community housing.

The Carey Street complex was built about 80 years ago to tackle a shortage of homes for older people. The shortage was the housing crisis of its day.

The units were uneconomic to repair when they were closed by the then-owner, the city council, in 2019. By then the city was in a new and growing housing crisis.

We can see the crisis in the number of people on the Ministry of Social Development's Public Housing Register waiting for a public home in Christchurch.

More than 1880 applicants started the year waiting for a public rental home. That's twice the population of Reefton and 1000 more than when Carey Street closed in 2019.

About 750 of those applicants needed two-or-more bedroom homes. Most of those were families who needed a place for their kids to settle and grow.



More than 700 children were living in emergency or transitional housing (many in motels) in Christchurch in the first three months of this year.

These days, an increasing number of younger people need a public rental. Nationally, 64% of people waiting for a home on the Public Housing Register are aged 25-54.

You probably know most of the homes ŌCHT manages have one bedroom and 1-2 tenants. This is where most of the demand will come from in years to come.

There's growing demand from families and people who've yet to retire, so we're building more multi-bedroom homes when we have the chance to replace ageing complexes.

Carey Street will have 40, 2-4-bedroom homes when it opens late next year. Before then, we hope to open 65



new, 1-4- bedroom homes at nearby Glue Place. We're also part-way through building 35, 1-5- bedroom homes at Willard Street, which we'll open later this year.

Over time, we're changing our mix of homes to reflect changing housing needs. Thank you for your support as we build for people from all backgrounds now and the future.



## Bryndwr Courts has community BBQ

17 ŌCHT tenants enjoyed a community BBQ last month at Bryndwr Courts.

"The BBQ came about as a few of us were talking one day outside and said let's do it. My neighbour Sam dropped off hand written notes and basically organised it," Bryndwr Courts tenant Carol said.

"We had a great time talking and listening to music, and had plenty of food that people chipped in for.

"There was a fantastic turnout of 17 people."

Your community spaces and lounges are



there for you to enjoy and have socials just like this one.

If you have an event, let us know by emailing [admin@ocht.org.nz](mailto:admin@ocht.org.nz) and we can feature it in the next Our Chat. Remember to take and send photos too!

## Fires have far reaching consequences for victims and communities

We've had two reminders in less than a week of how quickly fire can change everything.

Two homes were destroyed by fire last month. The occupants weren't hurt - but they lost a lot.

Their communities responded quickly, rushing to safely to be sure their neighbours were okay.

There were multiple calls to 111 – a brilliant response showing people did what they could to help.

Fire and Emergency New Zealand and the firewalls separating the homes stopped the fires spreading.

ŌCHT supports affected tenants and has a bit of a process to follow after there's been a fire at one of our properties.

Part of the process involves helping affected tenants into alternative accommodation. The other part of the process is all about the property and the community.

ŌCHT can't do anything to the property until Fire and Emergency New Zealand says it's okay to do so.

Sometimes, the electricity and water supply to a block of homes, or to the whole community, might be cut off while Fire and Emergency is fighting the fire.

ŌCHT can't ask its contractor to restore electricity or water connections until Fire and Emergency New Zealand says it's okay to do so. This



can take time.

We also need to make the site safe. We do this when Fire and Emergency New Zealand has finished its work and says it's safe to do so.

We make the site safe by boarding up the windows and doors, and removing anything on the outside that might be dangerous.

From then on, we'll be back to further assess the property to see if we can fix things up. This part of the process is often the most challenging!

## Tips to keep your home fire safe

Fire and Emergency tells us heaps of house fires in New Zealand start in the kitchen, so be careful when cooking.

Keep things like tea towels, oven mitts and curtains well away from the cooking area. A knock or a bit of a breeze might get them too close to the element.

Keep the stovetop clean and free of any spilled fats or burnt foods. These can catch fire if they're near heat for a while.

**Don't leave cooking unattended - which also means don't drink and cook, and avoid taking a nap or leaving your home when you've got something cooking.**

Check your powerboards every now and then. If they're getting warm, you might have too many plugs in your sockets.

Don't use powerboards in places there's likely to be moisture.

Unplug appliances when you're not using them. This can also save power.

Unplug things with rechargeable internal batteries such as phones, tablets, computers, even scooters once they're charged.

If you feel unusually hot patches in your electric blanket, or if it is more than 5 years old, there's a good chance it needs replacing.

## What to do in a fire



**Get out! Crawl low and fast to escape the smoke**



**Shut doors behind you to slow fire's spread**



**Get to safety - have a planned meeting place**



**Stay away from the fire! Call 111 and ask for fire**

## It's time to clean the spouting

Goleman Group Christchurch is cleaning spouting in many ŌCHT communities over winter. It's important to have clear spouting and downpipes on properties to avoid flooding in wet weather and to help maintain the property. ŌCHT contractors Golemans check and clean the downpipes and clean and remove debris from inside the spouting – not the outside. Here's the team hard at work.

## Let's talk leaks

It's a fact of life in Canterbury that winter weather can cause leaks and icy plumbing.

We're keen to address any issues as soon-as we can, so please give us a call on **0800 624 456** as soon as you notice any leaks or plumbing issues in your home. Reporting issues early can help prevent further damage.



The Recreational Services team are outstanding in their field

## Meet our friendly gardening contractors

The team at Recreational Services have been doing a great job taking care of our common garden areas.

They're responsible for hedge trimming, garden and hard-service maintenance, weed removal and reactive works. Sometimes they need to use power tools on the job but they're asked to be mindful to keep any disruption to a minimum.

We all want to ensure common garden areas are clean, tidy and can be

enjoyed by all tenants, so please do not leave rubbish or personal items in these areas.

We've also seen several shopping trolleys being left in these areas - please return these to the shops!

If you see any of the friendly faces below in your common areas, feel free to say a friendly hello, but please contact ŌCHT with any issues or ideas rather than approaching the contractors directly.

## ŌCHT to host job fair

ŌCHT is hosting its first job fair next month exclusively for ŌCHT tenants.

This event gives you a great opportunity to meet face-to-face with potential employers and training providers.

You'll be able to ask questions about paid positions that match your skills and availability, and make appointments for personalised support with CVs and cover letters.

We've partnered with a bunch of organisations including Connected, WINZ and other work brokers, supportive employers including Te Whatu Ora, Waste Management, and Go with Tourism, and training providers including Literacy Aotearoa, Upskill, Ara, Hagley Community College, Risingholme.

ŌCHT's employment coach Lyn will be at the event to help you if you need it.

Come along and find out what's available if you're looking for work.

**WHEN:** Tuesday 11th July 10am-12 noon

**WHERE:** Oxford Terrace Baptist Church, 288 Oxford Terrace, Christchurch Central City, Christchurch 8011

If you'd like to attend, please RSVP by emailing [admin@ocht.org.nz](mailto:admin@ocht.org.nz) or calling **0800 624 456**

We'll also provide morning tea!

## Thank you!



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