

HATAITAI HAPPENINGS

SPRING 2023

WELLINGTON VOLUNTEER FIRE SUPPORT UNIT — OUR LOCAL VOLUNTEER FIRE BRIGADE

By Cullum Peni-Wesche

Did you know that Hataitai is supported by a local volunteer fire brigade as well as 24/7 paid crews? Volunteer Firefighters Cullum Peni-Wesche and Alex Cousins share their kōrero and insights about the Fire and Emergency volunteers who support our community and those across greater Wellington.

Can you tell us more about your volunteer brigade?

The Wellington Volunteer Fire Support Unit is based at Kilbirnie Fire Station alongside a 24/7 paid crew. Their role at emergencies is to support firefighters, medical first responders, and other emergency services. "Operational support firefighters keep our emergency service responders and the public safe at an incident," says Cullum, who has volunteered with the brigade for the past five years.

"We undertake a range of tasks on the incident ground, such as managing traffic and pedestrians, closing roads, transporting equipment and providing lighting and refreshments, and other duties as needed." Volunteer firefighter Alex says, "Our fire appliance is like a toolbox on wheels and holds all the equipment we need to respond to an emergency. We are fortunate to have a van to transport additional people and resources to the larger incidents we attend."



Volunteer firefighters and brigade observers with National Commander Russell Wood (fourth from right) during a station visit in November 2022. Newsletter contributors Cullum Peni-Wesche (fifth from right) and Alex Cousins (second from right).

When there's not an emergency, what does your brigade do?

Aside from their usual training nights, Alex says the Unit regularly attends community events across Greater Wellington. "A big part of our role is providing information and updates on fire safety initiatives – events we've attended this year include the Life Flight Open Day, Victoria and Massey University club days, and the Emergency Services Expo at Te Papa."

At these events, you'll find the team either showing off the equipment in their truck, handing out giveaways at a stall, or hosting demonstrations on the dangers of fire!

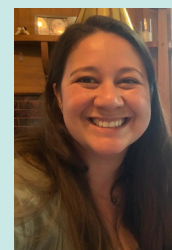
Who can I talk to if I'm interested in learning more or if I'm interested in joining as a volunteer?

"If you're interested in volunteering, ka rawe!" Cullum also says, "You can contact us anytime for more information on joining one of our recruitment intakes or attending an open night to meet the team. We know that volunteering can be a big commitment alongside the time demands from work and family, so we work with everyone to ensure they have meaningful roles within the Unit."

You can connect with the Unit on Facebook to keep updated on all the latest news, details about upcoming events, and information on the Unit's recent callouts. "Our Facebook page is Wellington Volunteer Fire Support, and our website is firesupport.org.nz."

Meet Sara - the new Hataitai Community Playgroup Coordinator

At the beginning of Term 3, Sara, a Hataitai local, came on board as the new Coordinator of the Hataitai Community Playgroup. Sara is a former playgroup mum and her two children now attend Hataitai School. She is excited about her new role and passionate about providing engaging, enriching learning experiences for the young tamariki attending playgroup. Hataitai Community Playgroup is open Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9 am - 12 pm for tamariki 0-5 years and their whānau. Come along, meet Sara and have a play!



WHAT'S ON IN HATAITAI?

MEET VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR RUNNER-UP - CHRIS HARE

by Dominique Whisker

AT HATAITAI CENTRE, 157 HATAITAI ROAD

Seniors Morning Tea

First Monday of the month, 10-11.30 am (If on a public holiday, it's the following Monday). For details, contact Frances Le Fort at frances@hataitai.org.nz or on 027 835 4374.

Hataitai Residents Association

Meets on the first Tuesday of every month at 7.30 pm. hataitai.org.nz/hra

Community Yoga & Exercise Classes

Multiple classes per week. Learn more at hataitai.org.nz/classes

MenzShed

Wednesdays 10 am - 1 pm, and during the Saturday Village Market.

Hataitai Village Market

Upcoming dates Sep 16, Oct 28 and Nov 18.

FREE COMMUNITY EVENTS @ THE HATAITAI CENTRE

Seniors Soup & Slice

Come together as a community to celebrate our seniors. Koha Soup and Slices.

Monday 2 October, 11 am - 1 pm.
Please RSVP to Frances - frances@hataitai.org.nz or 027 835 4374.

Community Soup

Need a study break and some free hot soup? Then come along to our free event aimed at students, but all are welcome.

Tuesday 17 October
5 pm - 6.30 pm (Or until we run out of soup.)

AT COMMUNITY HOUSE, 112 WAIPAPA ROAD

Hataitai Community Playgroup

Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, 9am-12 pm. Email playgroup@hataitai.org.nz.

Matairangi Community Kindergarten

Monday - Friday, 8.30 am - 2.30 pm

Fruit & Veg Co-op

Collection Thursdays 12.30 - 2.30 pm and 5.30-6 pm. Orders close the previous Thursday.

Email: fruit&veg@hataitai.org.nz

Saturday Serenity Al-Anon Families

A support group for people whose lives have been affected by someone else's drinking. Saturday 10.30 - 11.45am. Just turn up or call 0508 425 2666 for more information. al-anon.org.nz

COMMUNITY NOTICES

Community Halloween event



Come dance at our free Zombie Apocalypse party. Enjoy free candy, dance floor downstairs and zombie crafting upstairs. Hataitai Centre, 157 Hataitai Rd. All ages welcome! 31 October, 3:30 - 5pm.



Composting Workshop

Learn how to make great compost and keep the rats away at this free event. 14 October, 2 - 3 pm. Register via bookings@hataitai.org.nz



Support Kilbirnie School

Take the opportunity to leave your mark and help fund upgrades at the school. For more information: kilbirnie.school.nz/bricks-and-lego-2

Zero Together Workshops

Come along to the rescheduled five workshops commencing 20 September at All Saints Church, Hamilton Road, Hataitai. Find out ways you can help combat climate change. Register here: wellington.govt.nz/zero-together.

Salon Group

A fun, casual group meeting once a month, Saturday, in people's homes, discussing various topics. All are welcome! Contact Frances Le Fort (details above).

Movie Fundraiser

Keep an eye on our website (hataitai.org.nz) for our upcoming movie night fundraiser!



Chris with his Volunteer Award

This afternoon, I met volunteer Chris Hare to discuss his commitment to the Hataitai community. Chris was awarded the Volunteer of the Year Runner-Up in the Mahi Aroha Awards 2023.

Chris moved to Hataitai in 1999 with his wife, Anne. They raised their family here and are now content to stay. "I love the community and the connections we've made. I like Wellington as a small city... It's a no-brainer."

After retiring in 2015, Chris started volunteering in the Hataitai community. He now has roles with the MenzShed, Hataitai Community House, Predator Free Mt Vic and the Hataitai Amateur Swim Club.

Chris has a long history of voluntary involvement with coaching and school committees. He was shoulder-tapped by Jane de Lisle for the Community House Chair position. He says this role was a great responsibility and a huge learning curve. "Normally, you would just go onto the committee – observe, listen and learn." Thankfully, Chris was able to draw on his previous experience with the Wellington Harrier Athletic Club to help him understand the role.

Chris acknowledges many locals for their recent and ongoing support of the community, especially Barbara Benson, Diane Welsh, Jane de Lisle, Liang Wells and Lorna Nicolson: "It takes a team to do things; it's not just one person."

As his Community House role evolved, Chris was introduced to Predator Free Wellington's backyard trapping scheme in the Mt Victoria area. Chris values getting out and about, meeting a range of people, and building relationships. He enjoys helping people with their rat traps and building the traps at the MenzShed.

movement. "Life is about community ... it is about doing things for the greater good ... and not just the individual."

As a young adult, Chris played badminton and pursued an interest in coaching. He volunteered as a coach for a junior team in the Hutt Valley, where he grew up. Chris met Anne at the Badminton Club.

The most rewarding part of his work has been the people he's met, and their diverse experience, skills and knowledge. The Hataitai Community House is a vibrant place that brings people together from all walks of life – contributing to initiatives that make the community special. Chris says it has been a pleasure to serve the community.

One of the challenges of community work is protecting assets and negotiating with the local council about development opportunities. Chris would love to see more funding for community centres: "Community centres should be cherished... We could really do some great things if the funding was there."

The MenzShed reached the finals of the Wellington Airport Community Awards. Being invited to award ceremonies also provides opportunities to collect funds to continue vital work.

Chris advises people who want to contribute to be careful not to take on too much too soon – start small. He says it is a great way to get to know people in your community. Respect for diversity, treating everyone equally and patience are fundamental values.

Chris would have liked the whole Hataitai community to have been nominated for Volunteer of the Year. Again, this highlights Chris' recognition of the team effort being more important than any individual contribution.

Thank you, Chris!

Over the last 18 months, Chris and a network of people have worked to establish the MenzShed as a safe space to gather, share skills and work on projects. Chris says he'd like a more inclusive name like 'The Shed' because everyone is welcome. The MenzShed has been a great asset in helping to maintain our community facilities and gardens.

After 7 years as the Chair of the Community House, Chris stepped down this year. He hopes others will contribute, sharing their skills and knowledge. "I think that I've done justice to this community, and I'm still involved, but it's a little step back." Chris is still a committee member but will focus more on Predator Free Wellington and the MenzShed. Chris and Anne also help coordinate the Hataitai Amateur Swimming Club, which has been around for over 110 years and where their two children learnt to swim.

When asked about his inspiration for getting involved, Chris talks about his parents' attitude to peace and his father's involvement in the 1950s peace

Interested in Hataitai Property Values?

Hataitai's No.1 Agents

*See www.homes.co.nz

Ben Ryan

027 316 5343

ben.ryan@tommys.co.nz

Nicki Cruickshank

021 380 650

nicki@tommys.co.nz

Sam Newble

021 565 478

sam@tommys.co.nz



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Spotlight on The Crazy Rabbit Cafe

By Holly Connor-Kebbell

In the heart of Hataitai, there is a small business called 'The Crazy Rabbit'. This cafe, coffee shop, brunch spot, and place for lunch is a big hit in Hataitai. Since 2011, the cafe has been owned by William Guan. He was a chef working for a different company when he decided he wanted to start his own business here in Hataitai. One of his sons was born in the same year as the shop opened, the Chinese Zodiac year of the Rabbit, so he decided to name his new business 'The Crazy Rabbit'.



He loves the Hataitai Community and his customers. He has even become friends with many of his regulars. Its big glass windows at the front and the natural light streaming inside gives you the perfect view of the Hataitai Village. The seating outside, the homely feeling when you walk in and the smell of its delicious home-baked goods, are what makes 'The Crazy Rabbit' special.

31 Waitoa Road, Hataitai

Open Monday - Friday, 7am - 4.30pm.

Saturday - Sunday, 8am - 4.30pm.