

Housing Upgrade project update

The Housing Upgrade Project is progressing at high speed with four sites under construction. The way in which we prioritise what order buildings will be upgraded is based on the seismic strengthening requirements of each building and a number of other factors including the logistics around moving tenants while the work takes place.

Work also continues at our other properties as we run our maintenance programmes alongside the housing upgrade project. If you identify a maintenance problem we remind you to follow these simple steps:

1. Log the job request with by phoning 499 4444
2. Take down the reference number from the contact centre so that you have a record of the call and when it was made.



Berkeley Dallard

Looking ahead to the next project to go live, the project team are in full planning mode for Berkeley Dallard.

Hanson Court

Construction on the 'Big and Middle Sisters' towers is progressing well with completion in October this year and construction on the fourth, final phase – the 'Little Sister' tower – is set to start in mid-September.



Regent Park Flats

Work has reached another milestone with all the foundation work complete at this site off Owen Street in Newtown. The three and four-bedroom townhouses are taking shape and work on the two-bedroom apartments is under way. Construction is on schedule to finish in early 2012.

Newtown Park

Newtown Park has seen significant progress over the last months with a new stairwell being cut into the core of the Fire Station block, new sheer wall construction complete and units being framed up. Completion of Fire Station and Russell Block is scheduled for before Christmas.

Central Park

The second stage of the Central Park upgrade is nearing completion. Some 21 bedsit units will be ready for tenants at the end of September. Work is well under way on the Nairn Street Podium with demolition work nearly finished. The facade has been cut to create the new stairwells



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city housing news

Pānui – Noho Whare, Noho Whānau



Members of the Chinese Senior Community Choir at the 'Bringing Health and Safety 2U' event at Arlington Apartments.

Asia DownUnder takes an interest in the rich diversity of our communities

TVNZ's *Asia DownUnder* programme recently put two stories together with a focus on the rich multicultural society living in Wellington City Council's housing communities.

They met up with Vietnamese tenants Khai and Minh Pham who featured on the show and talked about their experience of moving during the upgrade of Newtown Park Flats. They also talked to Chinese tenants who live in the Arlington apartment complex and joined in for the afternoon at the 'Bringing Health and Safety 2 U' event organised by the Community Action Team. They also looked

at the 20-year housing upgrade programme and how it is making the Council's housing 'fit for purpose' in the 21st century.

Asia DownUnder also filmed a story about the Chinese Senior Community (CSC), a non-political and non-religious charitable organisation set up in 2007. Juping Zhou is a volunteer and founder of CSC, who has a strong desire to give back to the community.

With the generosity of CSC volunteers, Chinese seniors get a helping hand in settling in New Zealand which puts them in a better position to start contributing to their new society and enjoying their surroundings.

Tenants at Arlington, Yun Jian Cai and his wife Xing Yun Chen, were interviewed about how they migrated to New Zealand three years ago from China and how CSC helped them to

meet and make friends, gave them a sense of belonging and a sense of home and also helped them mix and integrate with Kiwis.

A special thanks goes out to Yuqui Wang, a journalist who lives at Arlington, for her help with these programmes. Yuqui writes for the Chinese newspaper *HomeVoice* and has written several articles about our community events and the housing upgrade project.

We would also like to thank CSC for the work they do to help our new tenants feel part of the community.

Some of the activities they run are the Chinese choir which meets weekly at the Arlington Community Room, computer lessons and tai chi classes. To find out more in Chinese phone: 889 0066 or in English contact Juping Zhou on 970 7568.

Contact us: City Housing • PO Box 2199 • Wellington • Phone 499 4444
email us: CityHousinginfo@wcc.govt.nz • Wellington.govt.nz

Absolutely

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WELLINGTON CITY COUNCIL **Wellington**

Another Door Opens at Matariki for budding actors

This year Matariki – the Maori New Year – was celebrated at the Rintoul Street Community Rooms.

About 100 tenants visited Rintoul Street including last year's hosts from Arlington Apartments who took part in the traditional powhiri to open the celebrations with the gifting of the 'wairua' or spirit of Matariki.

The community room was jam packed with tenants from different complexes including most of the actors who created a short film which screened at the event. The short film project was led by tenants in partnership with the Community Action team. Lewis Madar was the leader of the project who, with a little help from his friends, created something very special.

"I wanted to create a documentary and a storyline that tenants could relate to," says Lewis "Another Door Opens" is a film that works

through issues of depression and overcoming life's challenges, and the difference a little help from a caring community can make. The main character was played beautifully by Manu Rio, whose moving depiction of Tama alongside the

acting of his co-stars has received rave reviews from fellow tenants and City Housing staff.

There are plans to screen Another Door Opens again. We'll keep you notified of when this will be."



Aaron Pauling, Ricky Ngakopu, Rosalina Ngakopu, Manu Rio, Tania Taylor, Leigh Harrington, Ope Puketapu and film maker Lewis Madar. (Missing from the shot are Sam Conrad and Jo Kara).

Tips to help you stay warm and save

Our Community Action team have been running free workshops with the Sustainability Trust to offer practical advice and information on what you can do to make your home warmer, drier and offer ways to improve your living environment and hopefully make some savings on your energy bill.

Everyone got to take home thermometers, energy-efficient lightbulbs and information sheets and was connected with the Curtain Bank's free curtain offer which is available to Community Card holders. To contact the Curtain Bank call 389 3400 or go to www.sustaintrust.org.nz

Jo Burleigh from the Community Action team extends her appreciation to those who came along and to the community volunteers who helped with the preparation for the workshops. If you want to help run one of these workshops at your complex get in touch with Jo at the City Council on 803 8790.



Participants at the Warm Home workshop held at the Heath Street Flats in Johnsonville.

Do not feed the pigeons



Wellington City has a real problem with people feeding pigeons as they cause hygiene and maintenance problems that can be very costly.

You can help us by discouraging anyone from feeding the pigeons near your home. We understand that people love animals and have a natural tendency to want to feed these birds but doing so results in frequent complaints about pigeon poo at our properties and the resulting acidic smell that it leaves.

If you see any tenants feeding pigeons at your apartments and flats please remind them that this is not permitted. It is also discouraged in the rest of the city.

Call your tenancy manager if you see anyone feeding pigeons so that we can discuss this issue with them.

Global recipes

Tour the food world with global recipe favorites share your recipes, tips and stories about food!

There were some fantastic cooks at the last Cheap as Chips course who shared some of their international cuisine with others. This new section in our newsletter is for those of you who want to share your recipes, tips and stories. Email them to: cityhousinginfo@wcc.govt.nz or drop them into your tenancy manager when they are on site.



Nga Euka is one of the talented chefs in the Cheap as Chips programme and has kindly volunteered to start us off with his simple way of smoking seafood on the BBQ.

Smoked seafood on the BBQ

What you'll need:

- **One bag of manuka chips** (you can buy a small bag from The Warehouse or some supermarkets)
- **Two disposable foil trays** (one's a lid and the other is for the manuka chips.) Some foil for your seafood
- **A BBQ** (if you don't have one, ask your community room coordinator if there is one you can use)
- **A grill tray** to sit your tray of seafood on while it smokes
- **Marinade** for the mussels: sweet chilli, garlic butter, honey and tomato sauce and seafood sauce
- **Raw sugar or honey** to rub into your fish fillets.

Preparation:

Mussels – Simply marinate your mussels in sauces of your choice, like sweet chilli or garlic butter, try honey and tomato sauce with a little seafood sauce or soy sauce. Cook on foil, fold corners up so sauce does not drip.

Fish – smoking fish – rub raw sugar or honey into your fish fillets. This can go directly on the grill tray ready to smoke.

Cover the bottom of your second tray with the manuka chips and put these on the BBQ and put the grill and foil tray of seafood on top. Once the smoking starts, cover the top of the seafood with another tray to stop the smoke escaping. This will take about 10–15 mins to cook.

Cooking experts share their knowledge

The **Cheap as Chips** workshop in July was an opportunity for tenant communities at Pukehinau, Berkeley Dallard and Central Park to join in and learn how to prepare some low-cost, tasty and nutritious meals. It was also a chance to get to know neighbours and share recipes and ideas. The Cheap as Chips programme is run in partnership with the SuperGrans. It is the subject of a documentary by Pacific Screen Television. Many tenants got to play an active role in the documentary which screens in October as part of the series called *New Zealand Stories* on Sunday mornings on TV One.

Get active at a community centre near you!

A great way to increase your physical activity and it doesn't need to cost you anything.

Check out one of the fun exercise classes at your local community centre. There are classes to suit all levels and are often free – or you may be asked for a gold coin donation.

Talk to your local community centre coordinator or call Anna Hobman at City Housing on 499 4444.

For a list of locations you can also go to Wellington.govt.nz



Having fun and getting fit with friends

Everyone has a story

The 2nd Annual Tenant Art Exhibition will be held at Thistle Hall Gallery, corner Cuba and Arthur Streets, from 22–26 November, 10am–6pm.

Artists at all levels living in City Council housing are invited to submit entries for this exhibition of original painting, drawing, collage and print-making.

The theme for this exhibition is Everyone has a story. For more information contact: Andrew Morrison 803 8106.



Vicki McLaren and artist Thien Nga Tran at the 2010 'Complex Creatives' Tenant Art Exhibition.

Congratulations to this year's Housing Heroes



Thanks to all tenants who sent in their nominations for Housing Heroes Awards for 2011. The winners are now being selected and will be invited to a special awards and morning tea with Mayor Celia Wade-Brown. We'll feature them in our next newsletter.