

# Community Centre News

Jo Baldwin

After a tough start to the year, May is looking to be an exciting month!

We have sewing, smartphones and game design for teens all starting this month, with even more activities lined up over the following months.

Casual office hire is proving popular for people who normally work at home. A change of atmosphere is said to increase motivation.

Our small offices are warm and private, with the bonus of being able to chat to other people on your breaks.

In April, we had some amazing volunteers start with the Centre. Joanne, Meg, Anna and Jess have joined our long-standing volunteers Marina, Alan and Phil in keeping the Centre running so well and looking amazing! We appreciate everything that you do.

Our hedges have gone crazy with growth, after being trimmed by the Baldwin family only four months ago. We would love to find someone (or a group) that can help with this. If you can spare a few hours and have access to tools, please let the Centre office know. We can reimburse you for costs like fuel and waste removal.

Lastly, over the next six weeks Amanda Cuff will be acting Centre Manager as Jo recovers from surgery.

Thank you, Amanda, for stepping up and helping us out. You can reach Amanda at the Centre in person, via email or phone, or by messaging the Centre Facebook page.



The Wisdom and Well-being group meets again after a three-week break.

## Easter surprise for Food Bank users

Marisa King

Featherston Food Bank users received some special treats over Easter, thanks to the efforts of two special teenagers. Ella Butler-Peck and Annalise Saubrey belong to the Greytown Scout Group, and volunteered to help at the Food Bank as part of their Chief Scout Award. They spend two hours every Saturday morning repackaging bulk donations so they can be handed out to clients.

"They're amazing kids," says Food Bank Manager Erin McBride. "They just arrive and work from start to finish."

When Erin offered the girls some Easter eggs as payment for their hard work, they came up with the idea of making Easter treat packs for children.

Initially they used their own pocket money to buy some Easter eggs, but Erin quickly arranged a bulk purchase, enabling them to make up around 25 treat packs of different sizes.

Not surprisingly, Erin (and Food Bank clients) were very grateful for the girls' efforts.

"It's nice to see bright kids that have that work ethic," says Erin. "It really changes your thinking."

The Chief Scout Award is the highest award for a Scout and tests their skills, leadership, initiative and commitment. Along with other tasks, candidates need to complete 25 hours of voluntary work.

"The Food Bank is close to us and we thought they could always do with some extra help," says Ella.

"It's actually quite fun and the people there are really nice."

Annalise agrees.

"We really enjoy it and it's nice to give back to the community."



Ella (left) and Annalise volunteering at the Foodbank.



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