

Come in & make some friends



**New Zealand
Newcomers Network**

Connecting People

Waitaki Newcomers

August 2013 No 6

Hello Everyone

Another very busy month. More and more people are discovering the Newcomers Network which means I'm getting lots of work to do. A great complaint to have.

This month there have been some changes in the office. Liz Hay, the migrant co-ordinator, has moved to Christchurch to be with her husband who is now the principal at Christchurch Boys' High. I wish them all well as they settle and become 'newcomers' up there.

Consequently, I welcome Jojan McLeod who is taking over from Liz. Jojan is a district nurse and has many contacts in the community. I am enjoying getting to know Jojan. Below is a picture of her in the office at Abacus House.



Also, I have another person to introduce. Linda Gould is joining the team as a volunteer. Linda will host every second coffee morning, run the book group and is going to organise some garden tours over the summer. Some of you have already met Linda and many of you will have contact with her in the next few weeks. Linda's help is much appreciated and will relieve me from having to attend every event.



Please make use of the website to check when and if an event is on. Go to www.newcomers.co.nz and look up Waitaki. It is all there for you to see. I'm also using facebook to remind people of things that are happening. 'Like' Waitaki Newcomers and then you too will receive these reminders.

Welcome Newcomers!

We are an informal social network which supports people in Waitaki. 'Newcomers' can help you get in touch with each other, local people, clubs and organisations. We hope to help you feel at home in your new environment. Please feel free to come along to our activities or contact us.

Contact Us

Christine Dorsey
Waitaki Newcomers
Abacus House
102 Thames Street
P 4347544
C 027 242 8643
E: waitaki@newcomers.co.nz
W: www.newcomers.co.nz
Home Phone 4340376

Hours: Mon 9-11.30am



Do your little bit of good, where you are :it's those little bits of good put together, that overwhelm the world. Archbishop Desmond Tutu

Newcomers News and Upcoming Events

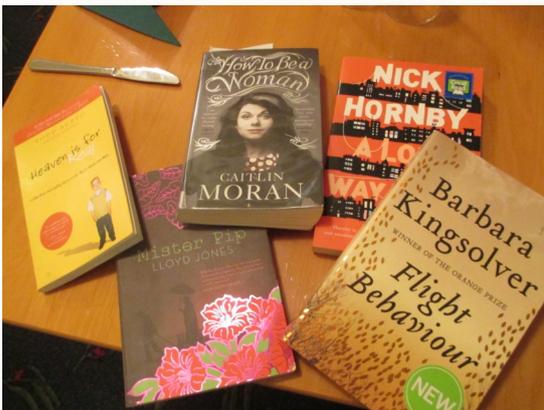
Book Group

The first meeting has been held and it was most enjoyable. There appears to be a strong base of people keen to see this succeed. We met at the Brydone and sat at a table out the back and each person shared a book or two. It is a great way to find new and varied reading material recommended by others. Why not join us next time. Monday 13 August at 7.30pm.

Japanese Meet and Greet

This is a new initiative due to a number of young Japanese families moving to town. Tomorrow morning they will congregate at the Opera House and enjoy the opportunity to communicate in their own language. I will be a bit on the outer. It is good for me to experience what it is like to be surrounded by people talking and not being able to understand a word of it! This gathering is something we hope to continue.

I was delighted to hear one of the people in our group sharing their experience of newcomers. This person has come from Rangiora, the founding place for the Newcomers Network. Newcomers has been going up there for years and the Rangiora network has been so effective, that the rest of the networks strive to emulate them. Anyway, my friend was saying that when she lived there, she was often asking people how they knew each other and they always said they had met at newcomers. So when she moved to Oamaru that was the first thing she did, contacted me at newcomers. How fantastic is that! I can remember our first conversation, a whole year ago and now she is a regular! Why not spread the word, so other people learn about us and benefit just like my new friend has.



Quiz Night

Good luck to the team participating tonight. There is another one on the 19 August at the Northstar. Names to me asap.

Accommodation

Has anyone out there got accommodation within in their home for a man who intends to come and stay in NZ during February and possibly March as well. Ideally with a bathroom and kitchenette so he can be independent. If you think you could help please email Sandra at swtonkin@xtra.co.nz.

Also, I have a contact with a townhouse in central Oamaru to rent. \$240 per week. Phone Brian on 4340330 if you would like to check it out.

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Community and Newcomers Events

Women's After Five

This is a group which locals attend and might be a good way to make some contacts. They meet on the fourth Wednesday of every month for a meal. Luckily, our new volunteer Linda goes to this and would be happy to take along anyone who is interested. Chat to Linda if you might be interested or let me know and I will forward you her email address.

St John Hospital Friends

If you like helping others this may be a good thing to become involved in. One of our newcomers could tell you more about it, but basically you visit people in hospital and assist with anything that is required. That could involve making drinks, getting things patients need etc. Ask me if you would like to know more and I will put you in touch with the right person

Games Afternoon

A small enthusiastic group of people have been meeting monthly over the winter at Doreen's house. They have learnt to play Quibbler. As winter is coming to an end, it is possible that the games afternoons will take a break. However there is one more opportunity to attend. This will be on Wednesday 21 August at 1.30pm at 10 Bluestone Drive. Bring a \$1 for a biscuit and a drink. Thank you so much to Doreen and Max for their hospitality. We hope this might become a yearly wintertime activity.

MiniMovers

Sport Waitaki runs this great programme for 3 and 4 year olds. Ring Kate on 4349379 for more information.

Information Booklet

You may have seen the publicity regarding a new booklet for people new to town. This is about to go to print so soon you will be able to collect one from me or from the information centre. It has all those bits of information that you probably needed when you first arrived, but could still be very helpful now. Keep an eye out for them around town.



Walking Group

A number of newcomers are going to start a weekly walk around town. Each week they will begin at a different spot so it will always be interesting. It is in the early planning stages, but put your name down with me if you would like to participate.

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What's on this month



Newcomers' Coffee Mornings
Oamaru Opera House
90 Thames Street
Friday 10.30am
9 August
23 August
6 September
20 September
4 October



Newcomers' Lunch
Fat Sally's
84 Thames Street
Tuesday 10 September
Numbers to Christine by Monday 9 please



Multicultural Council Pot Luck Tea
Pembroke Schooll Hall
Raglan Street
7 September



Newcomers' Games Afternoon
Doreen and Max's House
8 Bluestone Drive
Wednesday 21 August 1.30pm
\$1 coin for drink and biscuit



Newcomers' Book Group
Brydone Hotel
115 Thames Street
Monday 12 August 7.30pm.
Monday 9 September 7.30pm



Quiz Night
Northstar Restaurant
19 August 7pm