



Close to Home



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Eleanor crafts a life of kindness and caring



Eleanor enjoys crafts at her home in Mosgiel

From premature babies to people in their final days of life, hundreds of Otago people have benefited from Eleanor's huge heart – and her passion for knitting and crochet.

And that's just the start of the incredible impact this Mosgiel woman has on those around her. She also opened her home – and heart – by becoming a foster parent when her children started leaving home.

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Season's greetings for a relaxing summer

As the end of the year fast approaches, I would like to wish you all a safe and happy summer.

These past 2 years have challenged all of us, with the fear of illness, the pain of loss, and the disruption of isolation and lockdowns. Kāinga Ora and the people who work for us have felt that impact too, with their lives, routines and ways of working changing frequently. They also adapted to playing new roles as our contribution to the wellbeing of over 200,000 New Zealanders became more important than ever.

Many thousands of people and whānau are building their lives in our homes or want to. That's why building more and making our existing homes warm, dry, healthy and safe is important.

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Eleanor crafts a life of kindness and caring



“I became a foster child myself when I was just 2 years old. People helped me, so why not give back? I’ve loved every minute of it. I just tried to be there for them when they needed it,” says Eleanor.

Now when you ask the 79-year-old how many people call her Mum, she stops counting at 10.

As well as five children of her own, Eleanor has fostered and supported many other children over the years who all consider her their Mum. She’s now an adoring grandmother and great-grandmother and further dotes on her rescue dog Otis and rescue cat Paris.

“I’ve got heaps of love to give,” she says.

Now she helps many more people through her lifelong love of knitting and crochet and is busy knitting beanies, singlets and cardigans for premature babies in hospital as well as ponchos for the homeless and crocheting blankets for the local hospice.

“I am a busy girl. I’m too busy to go anywhere,” she laughs. “I just love giving my things to people and seeing the look on their face.”

Eleanor was introduced to knitting as a young girl by a teacher that saw something in her.

“I’m dyslexic, and back then, they couldn’t be bothered with me at school. They put me down to being a slow learner. But I was put in a ‘special’ class where the teacher noticed my interest in knitting, so he taught me to knit and to cook – he was life-changing for me.”

A determined Eleanor went back to high school at the same time as her own children and learned to read and write as an adult student.

“I enjoy learning. I’m starting computer classes next week, I’ll learn anything I can.”

Eleanor has lived in her Kāinga Ora home in Mosgiel for 18 years now and says moving there has been one of the best things she ever did.

“I have wonderful neighbours. The four of us look after each other. When I had a stroke last year, one neighbour looked after Otis and one looked after Paris. We take care of each other.”

Eleanor puts her positive approach to life down to her Scottish and Irish heritage.

“We are very determined people. We don’t give up easily – nothing beats me. I said to my sister recently, we came out the other side. My life has been perfect as far as I’m concerned.”

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Season’s greetings for a relaxing summer

It’s a big job, and on behalf of us all at Kāinga Ora, I want to thank you for helping us do our work and particularly for welcoming our staff and contractors into your home.

As we reflect back while planning for 2023, I hope you can find time to relax and enjoy the sun, along with any opportunities that may unfold for you in the new year.

Mā te wā

Andrew McKenzie
Chief Executive

Let’s keep cool and safe this summer



Check out our helpful handbook included in this issue for tips for you and your whanau.

Translations in te reo Māori, Samoan, Tongan or Chinese are available at kaingaora.govt.nz



Hastings family of seven now call Kauri Place home



The Tuu whānau in front of their new home in the new Kauri Place development

After living in motel rooms for almost 3 years, Marie had “lost all hope” of ever finding a home for her family of seven.

Now, as early movers into one of 40 brand-new homes in Kauri Place, Hastings, they have regained the confidence to begin planning for their future.

Life had been tough since they moved from Samoa in 2016. They first bunked with family before being told their landlord was selling the home.

With a 7-month-old baby, “we had nowhere to go”, Marie says.

“A friend let the seven of us stay with them for a week in one room. Then we were offered rooms in the motel. While we were grateful for this, I never thought we would still be there 2 years and 8 months later.”

The family spent New Zealand’s COVID-19 lockdowns in those same motel rooms. Living areas became shared bedrooms, and there was little space for storing clothes or for the children to complete homework or play.

“Even after lockdown finished, we were still restricted. We couldn’t have any visitors. If the children wanted to meet friends, it had to be out on the roadside.”

Still, Marie and her family were grateful to have a roof over their heads, and that gratitude only amplified when they moved in to their new home.

“It is so lovely. There is space for the whole family and we are happy,” she says.

“It is filled with light and is nice and warm. The kitchen is large, and we have a table big enough

for us all to sit around and have dinner together.”

Naomi Whitewood (Ngāti Porou, Ngāpuhi), Kāinga Ora East North Island Regional Director, says Marie and her family were exactly why Kāinga Ora focused on building warm, safe, dry homes as quickly as possible.

“We need to get people out of motels, cars, garages and other unsuitable living spaces so that they can get on with their lives.”

Hastings is recognised as an area of severe housing deprivation, with 804 applicants on the Housing Register as of 31 March 2022.

Forty of those new homes are in Kauri Street and Kauri Place, Mahora. The development is the largest delivery from Kāinga Ora under the Hastings Place Based Housing Plan.

For Marie, her family’s new-found stability nurtured a sense of belonging to their community.

“Hastings is our home, and we are now talking about the future. Our long-term aim is to buy our own home, but for now, we are so happy to be here,” she says.

“Soon I would like to get a job working night shifts so I can contribute to the household.

“I couldn’t even think about doing this in the motel.”



Burger night, two ways



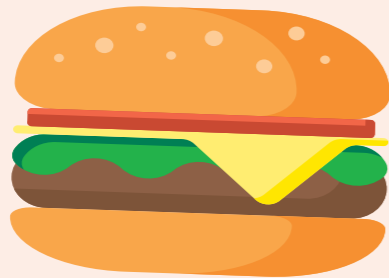
Recipes and photo supplied by Sophie Gray

Classic Beef Burgers

READY IN: 25 MINUTES
SERVES: 5-6

Ingredients

500 g beef mince
1 cup fresh breadcrumbs – about 2 slices of bread
½ onion, finely chopped
½ tsp salt
1 tsp mixed herbs
¼ cup tomato sauce
2 tsp Worcestershire sauce
1 tsp soy sauce
1 tsp beef stock powder
1 egg
toasted burger buns split in half
salad or slaw or other fillings of your choice
sauce(s) of your choice – BBQ, tomato, aioli ...



Method

1. In a bowl or food processor, combine the mince, bread crumbs, onion, salt and herbs. Add the tomato sauce, soy sauce, Worcestershire sauce and stock powder. Break in the egg and mix well or pulse to combine.
2. Divide the mixture into 5-6 balls then flatten to form patties suitable for the size for your buns – they will shrink a bit when cooking.
3. Grill, fry or barbeque approximately 4 minutes each side.
4. Serve in a bun with salad or slaw and your preferred sauces.

Courgette Burgers

READY IN: 25 MINUTES
SERVES: 4

Ingredients

3 medium courgettes, grated
2 tsp store-bought curry paste
1 tsp grated ginger
1 tsp wholegrain mustard
1 egg
100 g fresh breadcrumbs – around 2½ slices of bread
a big handful of coriander, roughly chopped
salt and pepper
2-3 tbsp oil for frying
toasted burger buns split in half
4 tbsp mango chutney – or other sauce such as barbecue or tomato
4 tbsp aioli
tomato sauce
lettuce, tomatoes, beetroot or other fillings of your choice

Method

1. Place grated courgettes into a clean tea towel and squeeze out as much liquid as you can. Tip into a bowl or food processor with curry paste, ginger, mustard, egg, breadcrumbs and coriander. Season with salt and pepper and pulse or mix to combine.
2. Form the mixture into 4 patties. Heat half the oil in a frying pan and fry slowly and gently until golden and firm. (If you cook them too quickly, the moisture won't evaporate, leaving you with a tasty but soggy burger.) Turn patties over, and continue cooking until the second side is golden too.
3. Spread the base of each burger bun with aioli, add lettuce, tomato and any other of your preferred burger fillings. Add a courgette patty and spread with a tablespoon of mango chutney. Place the bun tops in position and use skewers to hold the burgers together.

TIP: You can make small patties from the mixture and use like falafel or enjoy as a snack with mango chutney for dipping.

How to enjoy Christmas on a budget

1. **Plan, set a budget and stick to it.**
2. **Set a limit on gifts as well as a budget** (say \$10, \$15 or \$20). Perhaps limit the gifts you give to one person through either a secret Santa or white elephant and open them as a group as a fun game during your Christmas gathering.
3. **Try crafting your gifts.** Store-bought mason jars are super handy, but upcycled jars are just as good! Try making a body scrub from salt, sugar or coffee grounds and mixing in a little coconut oil and a few drops of essential oil. Make batches of jams, pickles or relishes from fruits and veggies from your garden. Bake cookies, brownies or fudges to pack in little parcels, or layer the dry ingredients into a large store-bought or clean reused glass jar and attach a little recipe card so your recipient can bake it fresh themselves! There are heaps more low-cost ideas online.
6. **Remember to focus on friends and family** – aroha from friends and whānau is always the highlight of any holiday season. Get outdoors and plan to go to the beach or park. Why not set up a game of backyard cricket or beach volleyball, have a picnic or use your council-owned shared barbecue? If the weather turns wet, break out the board games, cards or Lego. Just make sure you spend plenty of time with loved ones during the break.

For advice on end-of-year budgeting, see our back page for MoneyTalks, a free family budgeting service.

4. **Make Christmas dinner pot luck.** If you're hosting, coordinate and ask your guests to bring their favourite go-to dish. Your guests will likely want to help in some way, and it shares some of the cooking responsibilities.
5. **Look out for specials on non-perishable goods and stock up** on these prior to the Christmas week supermarket rush, and avoid the last-minute panic-buy price mark-ups



A warm welcome in Tauranga

Our newest customers were warmly welcomed last month to Kāinga Ora following the purchase of seven elder housing villages from Tauranga City Council.



Girven Road village customers are excited to join Kāinga Ora



Stan Lilley and wife Dawn, who live in their one bedroom unit at the Girven Road village in Mount Maunganui, are among the 191 joining customers.

They've lived there for 6 years, having moved from Christchurch after the earthquakes, and love their home and the village life.

"It's a small comfortable place to live and suits us in our older years," says 84-year old Stan, who keeps active through voluntary work with the Police.

As the tenant representative for the villages, Stan has been closely involved with the sale since 2017 when the council first talked about selling the villages.

"When it was recently decided they would be sold to Kāinga Ora, we did have some concerns."

But after talking with the team from Kāinga Ora, the Ministry of Social Development and Tauranga City Council, Stan and others in the villages are feeling a lot more comfortable about things like rent, who might move in to the villages and future plans for redevelopment.

"Thanks to Annie [senior housing support manager] and others we've met and talked with, we've had our questions and concerns answered, plus we're all pleased with the change to our rents."

"When you get a bit older, you can worry about these sorts of things, but it's all come out good and we're excited now it's happening."

As part of the agreement between Kāinga Ora and the council, those living in the villages will be able to enjoy their later years knowing that they will have affordable rents, well-maintained properties and always a place to call home.

The purchase of the villages is also good news for others in the city in need of housing. While there are no plans currently, in years to come redevelopment opportunities will be explored at the villages to build more modern, warm and dry homes in fast-growing Tauranga.

SOLUTIONS TO TREEHOUSE HOLIDAY CROSSWORD
Across: 1. togs 8. Meri Kirihimete 11. whānau 12. decorations 13. surf 15. pavlova 18. cricket
Down: 2. sunshine 3. fishing 4. picnic 5. holiday 6. presents 7. beach 9. jandals 10. ice cream 14. barbecue 16. Pohutakawa 17. ferry

Census Day is 7 March 2023

Aotearoa New Zealand's next census is on 7 March 2023. Not only can you help by taking part, you can make a bit of extra money helping others take part too.

The call has gone out across the motu for people to help fill the thousands of temporary full-time and part-time census collector jobs to help make sure everyone is counted and represented in the 2023 Census. The temporary assignments are from January to April 2023. The Ministry for Social Development is waiving the benefit stand-down period for these short-term census collector assignments.

The census is Aotearoa New Zealand's most valuable source of information. It gives us a complete picture of life in our

country. The 2023 Census will enable people to participate in the way that works best for them with more support available to people and more choice about how they fill in their form, either online or on paper.

Communities, iwi, businesses and central and local government use census information to plan and fund all the services and facilities we rely on – like schools and kōhanga reo, hospitals, parks and recreation centres, public transport and roads and many other services.



To register your interest to be a census collector go to persolkelly.co.nz/censusjobs or call **0800 000 210 #1** for census jobs.

Further information about the census is available at census.govt.nz.

Tatau Tātou – All of Us Count.



The Great Gardens of Kāinga Ora Awards



We were highly impressed by the interest in the competition and the standard of entries, making it tough for our judges, but we are pleased to announce the following winners:

1. Supreme garden: Lagi, Auckland

We were completely blown away at how Lagi has turned her small section into a dream garden in only a year. Her garden is bright, beautiful and inviting and balances eye-catching florals with plentiful vegetables. She's made her garden a haven for her entire whānau to gather, meet and collectively take pride in.

"Mum deserves the award. The feeling of peace we get in the garden has made the move that much easier for us," Lucia says.

Lagi wasn't just surprised to win the supreme award – she was shocked to learn she had even been nominated.

Knowing Lagi was unlikely to draw attention to herself, Lagi's daughter Lucia put her mother's name forward.

The family moved from their home of more than 30 years – on a larger property in Mount Roskill – to a newer home on a smaller section last year.

It was difficult to leave their home and garden, but Lucia is proud of what her mum has achieved in such a short time. "Obviously this award means she's doing something right," Lucia says with a chuckle.



2. Best community gardener: Annwyne, Whanganui

Annwyne is the resident community gardener at the Hakeke Community Centre where she not only tends to the gardens there through rain, hail or shine, she teaches the children who attend how to plant and care for the plants and vegetables. The children then get to enjoy the fruits of their efforts by eating them. The completely organic patch is filled with variety, plentiful and free for all.

Annwyne also shares the veggies with those that can use them. She's an absolute legend, as said by the community centre, and we completely agree!



3. Best small space: Tamara, Christchurch

We loved Tamara's cosy little haven created for her and her cat. She has transformed her small covered concrete balcony into a delightful potted colour paradise for monarch butterflies, tomatoes and strawberries.



4. Best edible garden: Adele, Auckland

We were highly impressed with not only how Adele has managed to use her garden as her sanctuary, but also how she's used it to help her create delicious meals, jams, preserves, pickles and relishes from what she grows in her garden. Her garden is a true inspiration for anyone interested in a garden to table approach to cooking.



5. Best junior gardener: Isaac, Auckland

We were moved by 10-year old Isaac's entry in the competition. He has cerebral palsy and has some difficulty with mobility, but with his daily dedication and commitment, he's cared for his garden and cultivated a crop of delicious vegetables for his family's table.



6. Best water-wise garden: Roghayyeh, Auckland

Roghayyeh's entry impressed us greatly. Featuring handmade, upcycled garden boxes housing bountiful veggies watered using only rain-water, the raised garden beds keep the roots drier, allowing for a longer growing season and better conditions for the plants and roots. We thought this was genius and deserving of our water-wise category win!



FOR KIDS, ABOUT KIDS



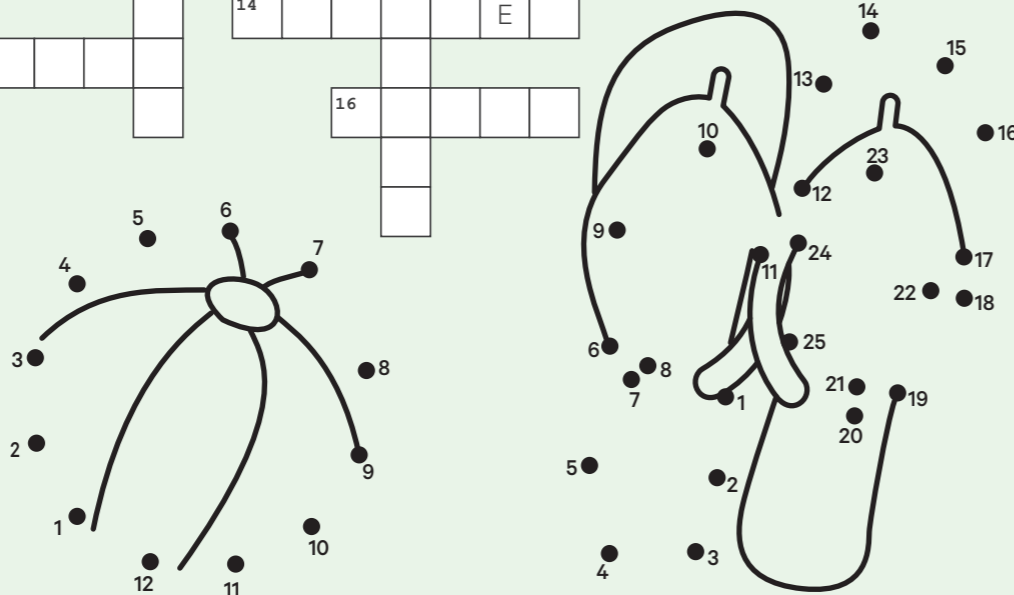
*'tis the Season
Holiday Crossword*

Across

- 4. Solar light
- 5. Sporting for kai moana
- 9. Adornments for Christmas trees
- 10. Aotearoa Christmas tree
- 12. Gifts
- 13. Outdoor grill
- 14. Bat to defend wickets
- 15. A meal outdoors often on a blanket
- 16. Commuter boat

Down

- 1. Family in te reo Māori
- 2. Swimming costume
- 3. Christmas greeting in te reo Māori
- 4. White waves or board sport
- 6. A vacation or time off
- 7. Rubber soled sandal
- 8. Meringue style cake often topped with cream and fruit
- 11. Frozen dairy-based dessert
- 13. Sand and ocean



Join the dots

Our opening hours over the holiday period

Christmas Day and New Year's Day both fall on a Sunday this year, so they will be observed the following Tuesday. This means that Tuesday 27 December 2022 and Tuesday 3 January 2023 are also public holidays.

Call 0800 801 601
enquiries1@kaingaora.govt.nz

Our customer support centre will be open for urgent calls only from 24 to 27 December 2022 and from 31 December 2022 to 3 January 2023.

Normal hours and non-urgent calls resume from Wednesday 4 January 2023, 8am to 6pm, weekdays.

Some local offices will be open for drop-ins between 10am and 2pm or by appointment on weekdays only. Contact your Housing Support Manager or phone your local office if it is open during this time.

Month	Date	Day	0800 801 601
December 2022	Saturday 24	Holiday weekend day	Emergency calls only
	Sunday 25	Christmas Day	
	Monday 26	Boxing Day	
	Tuesday 27	Christmas Day observed	
	Wednesday 28	Normal day	All queues open 8am–6pm
	Thursday 29		
	Friday 30		
Saturday 31	Holiday weekend day	Emergency calls only	
January 2023	Sunday 1	New Year's Day	Emergency calls only
	Monday 2	Day after New Year's Day	
	Tuesday 3	Day after New Year's Day observed	
	Wednesday 4	Normal day	All queues open 8am–6pm
	Thursday 5		
	Friday 6		
	Saturday 7	Normal weekend day	All queues open 8am–2pm
	Sunday 8		
	Monday 9	Busiest day of the year	All queues open 8am–6pm



! Driveway safety reminder

Safekids Aotearoa suggests three things you can do to make driveways and other places safer for children:

- **Check** for children before driving off
- **Supervise** children around vehicles – always
- **Separate** play areas from driveways.

NEED TO TALK?

1737

free call or text any time

Are you feeling out of sorts or depressed? Are you feeling anxious or just need someone to talk to or advice on mental health or addiction issues?

Whatever it is, you can call or text 1737 any time. It's free and completely confidential and is an independent service.



Email option If you would prefer to receive this publication via email, send your email address to editor@close2home.co.nz

Get it done online with MyKāingaOra

- Check your rent balances and accounts and download letters
- Keep your details up to date
- Access wellbeing services
- Book non-urgent maintenance and view progress
- View upcoming scheduled inspections and visits.
- Add and update your consented parties
- Te reo Māori, Samoan, Tongan and Chinese translations now available.
- If you have a debt owing under \$1,000 with no existing arrangement, you can now set an arrangement to pay it off using the app or MyKāingaOra.

If you access MyKāingaOra using Spark, Skinny, Vodafone or 2Degrees, there are no data charges – whether you're on a monthly plan or pre-pay. Just ensure you have data turned on when you're accessing it.

Visit my.kaingaora.govt.nz.



 **My Kāinga Ora**

MoneyTalks is a free service to help you manage your money

You can get free, non-judgemental budgeting and debt management support by visiting moneytalks.co.nz for information, resources and a chat.

You can email help@moneytalks.co.nz, call 0800 345 123, text 4029 or find a free financial mentor near you at moneytalks.co.nz/find-help-now.



Contact Publication enquiries should be made to: editor@close2home.co.nz

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