

Bryndwr Banter

NO.10 AUTUMN 2026



Burnside Bryndwr Community Network (BBCN)

Email: bbcن.chch@gmail.com

Website: bbcن.org.nz

Facebook: [BBCN CHCH - Burnside Bryndwr Community Network](https://www.facebook.com/BBCN-CHCH-Burnside-Bryndwr-Community-Network)



Kia ora everyone, and welcome to the Autumn edition of Bryndwr Banter—your gateway to all things Bryndwr! Delivered three times a year to nearly 3,500 homes, the Bryndwr Banter is brought to you by local community groups, organisations, and the Christchurch City Council.

If you'd like to contribute to a future edition, reach out to Burnside Bryndwr Community Network at bbcن.chch@gmail.com with your stories, news, or ideas. Let's keep Bryndwr thriving and connected!



Kate's Corner

Writing today, I'm sitting in the sunshine, finally streaming through the window of this Autumn morning and just appreciating how lucky we are, after another week of wet, chilly weather.



Last time I wrote for the Bryndwr Banter, I suggested bus rides for a fun holiday activity, not from the perspective of having to run for the bus, looking like a pack donkey with the number of bags I needed to board with, or waiting at a bus stop in the rain. All I can state now, is that 'this too will pass'. And, again with the layers warning, the bus can get warm and the outside chilly!

We are sharing our global space with a lot of difficult, concerning activity which we, in Bryndwr, have very little control of. And, while the ripple effect in the global pond may have reached many of our budgets in some form, our "here and now" moments in Bryndwr just might be ok. Recently, I received an email, "a 'Not doing so great?' guide". It served a neat and timely reminder of monitoring my own physical and mental health, wellbeing, even while adjusting to the increasing costs of being alive, which are mounting!



*Here's my take on how we could apply that received info: Calming & resetting our body can help to soften the physical effects of anxiety, depression, and stress. So, get outside for a walk as often as we can. Join a walking group, team sport, fitness class or our Thursday Walking Café. Have you tried playing "Disc Golf"? There is a course at Jellie Park and a link [*here](#) to what it's all about, how to hire discs and interestingly, how to play!*

Soak in a little daylight, watch the top tree branches wave in the wind. We are so lucky to have Jellie Park as one of our neighbours! Although the swimming pool is closed, the park's pond is still open to ducks, swans and visitors, offering a lovely few seats for quiet thoughts, meditation, stretching, sketching or chatting. While you're doing this, reset your thoughts – it makes a difference when we try to pause racing thoughts or ruminating.



[*www.christchurchdiscgolf.org.nz/what-is-disc-golf](http://www.christchurchdiscgolf.org.nz/what-is-disc-golf)

Place a smile on your face every time you pass a mirror, window or other person – laugh at yourself in what may feel like a ridiculous moment, just to let a little moment of joy in.

Commit to eating good, healthy food; what we eat impacts how we feel on so many levels, so growing our own kai can tick many wellbeing boxes, too. Follow a gardener like Kiwi, Kath Irvine, learn some new gardening methods, fresh food recipes, or join the community garden and share some tips to extend our knowledge. Find a place to share and connect; this might be while you engage in one of our community activities: knitting, gardening, playing, book club, cooking, eating, crafting, exercise, teaching or learning.

I think, Bryndwr, in our community we have established a great foundation for the “five ways to wellbeing”: connect, be active, take notice, keep learning, give. But, to get the benefits, we need to access our options! Don't be shy about joining in and lean into a new experience. Typically, there's often only one first time to join something new, and perhaps it'll be tremendously worthwhile.

*This is a light version response to not doing ok, and there are services available for when you need more than just a reminder to catch your breath – perhaps start with your GP, Health Coach or Health Improvement Practitioner if the overwhelm is great. Or reach out to me, and I can help you navigate a next step, kate@citymission.org.nz.



Jellie Park Temporary Closure Update

Jellie Park Recreation and Sport Centre is temporarily closed for important maintenance, strengthening, and upgrade work. This includes earthquake strengthening, upgraded heating and air systems, improved pool filtration, and general refurbishment to enhance the facility.

Key dates

- Outdoor pools, gym & group fitness: expected to reopen November 2026
- Indoor pools: expected to reopen early 2027

What's happening during the closure

Gym & group fitness (excluding Aqua and virtual classes) have relocated next door to the Jellie Park Fitness Centre (formerly Apollo Projects Centre).

- Aqua Fit classes have moved to Matatiki Hornby Centre and Graham Condon Recreation Centre (with adjusted times).
- SwimSmart lessons are running at alternative venues including Matatiki Hornby, Graham Condon and Parakiore.

Access & memberships

People can continue to use other Council recreation facilities, with flexible options available including membership freezes, downgrades, or pass extensions.

We know Jellie Park is a well-loved local space, so thanks for your patience while this work is underway. It'll be great to welcome everyone back to an improved facility in late 2026 and early 2027, and we'll share updates as things progress.





Volunteering at The Village Clothing Shop (located at the Church & Community Centre, 365A Ilam Road, Bryndwr) is both satisfying and fun!

A team of 12 volunteers staff the shop on Friday afternoons (2–5 pm) and Saturday mornings (9.30 am–12.30 pm), creating a warm, welcoming and colourful space for the community. The shop offers a great range of good-quality clothing, shoes and accessories for women, men and children, as well as bedding and towels.

Volunteers enjoy sorting through donated items, displaying clothing, and having friendly chats with customers. They also take pride in helping keep clothing out of landfill — with both donors and shoppers playing a part in supporting sustainability. Prices are kept low, with items averaging around \$4, and all proceeds are reinvested back into the community.

Above all, the volunteers love helping people. There's nothing better than seeing someone leave with a bargain and a smile.

If you have a wardrobe of unworn or unwanted clothes, feel free to drop them off during opening hours — and come and see what's on offer. Everyone is welcome!

A big shout out to the shop's amazing volunteers

Little Library, Big Community

The Village Lilliput Library in Bryndwr has been a much-loved part of the community for nearly nine years. The first Lilliput Library in New Zealand began in Dunedin in 2015, and since then, these little book boxes have been helping to bring people together through reading and sharing.

Filled with donated books, the library is open for everyone — children and adults alike are welcome to take a book, leave a book, or simply stop by for a browse. It's a simple way to connect, reuse, and enjoy the joy of reading.

If you have books at home that are looking for a new life, feel free to drop them off and help keep the shelves stocked for others to enjoy.

The Village @ Bryndwr, 365a Ilam Road, Bryndwr



BRYNDWR COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES & SERVICES

Adults

JP Clinic

JP services every Saturday, 10–12 pm. Get documents certified, affidavits witnessed & more. Free, no appointment needed.

Fendalton Library, 4 Jeffreys Road
03 941 7923
www.christchurchcitylibraries.com

All Ages

English Conversation Club

Thursday, 10-11 am. Come and practise your English in a relaxed setting. This is not a class but a time to chat with others and meet new people. Great for ESOL learners.

Fendalton Library, 4 Jeffreys Road
03 941 7923
www.christchurchcitylibraries.com

Friday Feature

Friday Feature, 7–8.30 pm – Monthly gatherings for all ages with themed nights like music, travel, and adventure. Come relax, connect, and enjoy supper.

St Aidan's Bryndwr,
63 Brookside Terrace
03 351 8075 www.staidans.org.nz

Let's Have a Cuppa

Wednesday 10.30 – 12 pm. Have a chat, a cuppa and something sweet to eat. There is always great conversation to be had and new people to meet.

Fendalton Library, 4 Jeffreys Road
03 941 7923
www.christchurchcitylibraries.com

Mandarin Conversation Club

Wednesday 5.30 - 6.30 pm. Come and practise your Mandarin in a relaxed and friendly environment. This isn't a class but a place for chatting with others and learning along the way.

Fendalton Library, 4 Jeffreys Road
03 941 7923
www.christchurchcitylibraries.com

Tech Mate

Every 2nd Monday, 10.00 - 12 pm. Free drop-in help with tech, CVs, cover letters, phone setup & more. Bring your device – no booking needed.

Fendalton Library, 4 Jeffreys Road
03 941 7923
www.christchurchcitylibraries.com

Second-hand Clothing Shop

Fridays 2–5 pm & Saturdays 9.30 am–12 pm. Clothing (kids–adults), accessories, shoes & bedding.

The Village Church & Community Centre, 365a Ilam Road.
03 351 6664 www.villagechurch.nz

St Aidan's Walking & Talking Cafe

Come along to our weekly drop-in at St Aidan's Every Tuesday (including school holidays): Walk from 9.30–10.30 am & Stay for a chat from 10.30–11.30 am Koha or gold coin donation is welcome.

St Aidan's Bryndwr
63 Brookside Terrace
kate@citymission.org.nz

Children & Youth

After-School Activity Zone

Join us Wednesdays, 3.15 – 4.15 pm, for crafts, tech, and 3D pens! All ages welcome, no booking needed.

Fendalton Library, 4 Jeffreys Road
03 941 7923
www.christchurchcitylibraries.com



Bishopdale-Harewood Scout Group.

Keas: 5 to 8 years Thursday 5-6 pm
Cubs: 8 to 11 years Thursday 6-7.30 pm
Scouts: 11-14 years Tuesday 7-9 pm

Bishopdale Scout Hall, 16 Raleigh Street, (Back of the Bishopdale Mall)
Bishopdaleharewood@group.scouts.nz
www.scouts.nz

Children & Youth continued ..

Breakfast Club	Mondays & Tuesdays (term time), 7.30 – 8.30 am. Free breakfast, lunch prep, table tennis, hoops & social time for tamariki & whānau. No booking needed!	St Aidan's Bryndwr 63 Brookside Terrace 03 315 8075 rangatahibryndwrtrust@gmail.com
Bedtime Stories e Fendalton	1st Friday of the month, 6.30 – 7.30 pm. Join Margot for stories, songs & crafts for 4–7s (families welcome). Wear your PJs!	Fendalton Library, 4 Jeffreys Road 03 941 7923 www.christchurchcitylibraries.com
Emerge Youth Group	Every Friday at 7pm. Welcoming all Youth.	Christchurch Community Church, 286 Greers Road 03 359 5986 admin@chinesechurch.org.nz
Found Youth	Youth Group – Thursdays, 6:30 pm. High school rangatahi connect, learn, and have fun!	The Village Church & Community Centre, 365a Ilam Road 03 351 6664 www.villagechurch.nz
Kendal Guides & Pippins	Kendal Pippins (5–6 pm) and Kendal Guides (6–8 pm) meet on Wednesdays during term time.	63 Brookside Terrace kendalguides@gmail.com www.girlguidingnz.org.nz
New Generation Youth Groups	Every Thursday: Years 7–8 (6 – 7.30 pm) & Years 9–13 (7 – 8.30 pm). Games, chats & fun!	New Generation, 309 Clyde Road 021 026 67026. www.newgenerationchurch.org.nz
Rangatahi Bryndwr Trust Youth group	Thursdays for Years 7–13: Games, chats & leadership. Y7–8: 5:30–6:30 pm, Y9–13: 7–8:30 pm. Shared meal 6:30. Bring a friend!	St Aidan's Bryndwr 63 Brookside Terrace 03 315 8075 rangatahibryndwrtrust@gmail.com

Craft, Hobbies & Seated Games

Knit & Yarn	Thursday 1.30 - 3.30 pm. Contact the library for further information.	Fendalton Library, 4 Jeffreys Road 03 941 7923 www.christchurchcitylibraries.com
Crafty Connections	Every 2 nd Thursday. 6.30 - 7.30 pm. Bring your own craft and chat with others.	
Mahjong	Love Mahjong? Join us at Fendalton Library! Intermediate and advanced players welcome. Play every Friday, 2–4 pm. Bring a set if you have one.	
NEW Media Conversion Station Class	1st Wednesday monthly, 10.30–11.30 am. Convert photos, videos, cassettes, negatives & slides to digital. Book via Fendalton Library. Free – basic computer skills required.	
Rummikub	Play Rummikub at Fendalton Library. Join us every Thursday, 1–3 pm. No booking needed, just drop in.	

Churches

For information about church services, groups, and events, please contact the churches directly or visit their websites.

Bryndwr Chapel	179 Idris Road. 03 351 8468. g.j.anderson@xtra.co.nz www.bryndwrchapel.org.nz
Christchurch Community Church	286 Greers Road. 03 359 5986 admin@chinesechurch.org.nz www.chinesechurch.org.nz
Grace Nepali Church	Based at St Aidan's, Bryndwr. gracenepalichurch.nz@gmail.com
New Generation Church	309 Clyde Road, Bryndwr. 021 026 67026. eduardo@newgenerationchurch.org.nz www.newgenerationchurch.org.nz
The Village Presbyterian Church	Corner Ilam & Aorangi, 03 351 6664. Bryndwr@villagechurch.nz . www.villagechurch.nz
St Aidan's Bryndwr	63 Brookside Terrace. 03 351 8075. staidans.bryndwr@gmail.com . www.staidans.org.nz
Weekly Mass @ St Patrick's	Monday (During Term Time) 9am - School Hall. All welcome. 57 Plynlimon Road, Bryndwr

Food & Community

Bryndwr Community Gardens	Come and see what's growing in the garden — vegetables, herbs, and fruit. Volunteers welcome	Morley Reserve, Corner Clyde Road and Morley Street, Bryndwr. bryndwr.community.garden@gmail.com
Community Breakfast	Every Friday, 10.30 – 11.30 am. Enjoy a warm meal, great company, and good conversation.	New Generation Church, 309 Clyde Road, 021 026 67026. www.newgenerationchurch.org.nz
NEW Community Cooking Sessions	Cook, connect, and eat together! Bring: Ingredients (from the list), Containers & \$2 Email kate@citymission.org.nz to book your spot.	St Aidan's Bryndwr 63 Brookside Terrace 03 351 8075 www.staidans.org.nz
Community Lunch	Last Sunday of the Month 12.30 - 1.30 pm. It's a great chance to enjoy a meal and connect with others. Everyone is welcome.	New Generation Church, 309 Clyde Road, 021 026 67026. www.newgenerationchurch.org.nz
Community Morning Tea	Free morning tea, friendship and often free food to take away. Every Friday from 10 am during school term.	Bryndwr Chapel 179 Idris Road, Bryndwr. g.j.anderson@xtra.co.nz 0272262259
St Aidan's Vege Co-op	Fresh Produce Service – 30 Years Strong! Run by volunteers, our affordable fresh produce is 50% cheaper than supermarkets. Order a surprise bag for \$18 and pick up on Wednesdays, 8 – 10.30 am at St Aidan's.	St Aidan's Bryndwr 63 Brookside Terrace 03 351 8075 www.staidans.org.nz

Pre-School

Kidsfirst Trenrove	<p>Explore our not-for-profit community kindergarten on Clyde Road for exceptional early years education. Children aged 2–5, welcome.</p>	<p>243 Clyde Road, Ph: 03 351 7874 Mobile: 022 562 5965 trenrove@kidsfirst.org.nz</p>
Mainly Music	<p>Join us Wednesdays at 10 am for singing, dancing, and fun with your little one!</p>	<p>Bryndwr Chapel, 179 Idris Road, Bryndwr. g.j.anderson@xtra.co.nz 027 226 2259 www.bryndwrchapel.org.nz</p>
Pre-school Music	<p>Every Wednesday (term time), 10–11:15 am. Just \$3 per family for music, morning tea, and playtime!</p>	<p>The Village Church & Community Centre, 365a Ilam Road. 03 351 6664 www.villagechurch.nz</p>
St Aidan's Church Playgroup	<p>Friday mornings 9:30 - 11:30 am A casual drop-in playgroup for preschoolers and their whanau during term time. Creative play, playground, story time and more. Morning Tea provided.</p>	<p>St Aidan's Bryndwr 63 Brookside Terrace 03 351 8075 www.staidans.org.nz</p>
Wā Kārero: Storytimes	<p>Every Tuesday at 10:30 am (term time), enjoy stories, songs, and rhymes to boost your preschooler's literacy. All whānau and caregivers welcome!</p>	<p>Fendalton Library, 4 Jeffreys Road 03 941 7923 www.christchurchcitylibraries.com</p>
Wā Pēpi: Babytimes	<p>Join us Thursdays at 10:30 am (term time) for songs, rhymes, and stories with your little one. Free, no booking needed!</p>	<p>Fendalton Library, 4 Jeffreys Road 03 941 7923 www.christchurchcitylibraries.com</p>
Waimairi Toy Library	<p>By sharing toys, we foster creativity, promote social justice, and reduce waste—helping to create a brighter, greener future for our little ones. Contact us to learn more!</p>	<p>Wairakei School, 250 Wairakei Rd 022 451 7886 www.waimairitoylibrary.org.nz www.fb.me/waimairitoylibrary</p>

Seniors

Indoor Bowls	<p>Mondays, 6:45 pm, social group, meets from 16 March to 5 October.</p>	<p>The Village Church & Community Centre, 365a Ilam Road. 03 351 6664 Bryndwr@villagechurch.nz www.villagechurch.nz</p>
Foot Clinic	<p>Offered every six weeks on Thursday and Friday afternoons, this service provides a foot spa, nail trim, and massage. Phone 351-6664 to book.</p>	<p>The Village Church & Community Centre, 365a Ilam Road. 03 351 6664 Bryndwr@villagechurch.nz www.villagechurch.nz</p>

Bryndwr: Your Voice, Your Community

Over winter 2025, the Burnside Bryndwr Community Network (BBCN) gathered feedback from people across Bryndwr and Burnside to better understand what matters most in our community, what's working well, and what could be improved.

We heard from more than 1,400 people, including families, long-term residents, newcomers and Mandarin-speaking households. Nearly 600 young people also shared their views.

We would like to sincerely thank everyone who took the time to contribute. Your feedback is already helping shape the future of our neighbourhood.

Feedback was gathered through:

- Household surveys
- Workshops with children and young people
- Targeted surveys for parents, youth, and older residents

\$50 Supermarket Voucher Winners

Steph Wood, Margaret Western, Mandy, Shi Juan (Jessie)

\$100 Voucher Winners

Yung-Chu (Tiffany) Young, Rose Wang, Ella McArthur

\$100 Westfield Voucher (Youth Survey)

Harry Morris

What we heard

While Bryndwr has a strong sense of community, we heard that it's not always easy for everyone to get involved. Common themes included:

- Not always knowing what's happening locally
- Language barriers for some residents
- Time, cost, transport, and safety concerns
- Information is not always clear or easy to find
- A need for more information in different languages, including Mandarin,

Young people and families

Young people told us they want safe, welcoming spaces where they can relax, create, and be themselves.

"We need spaces where we can just be ourselves."

Families shared that they are looking for:

- Affordable, family-friendly activities
- More opportunities outside of school hours
- Simple ways to connect with others close to home



Smiles all round as Kate Cobb, Community Development Kaimahi, from City Mission, presents supermarket vouchers to the lucky winners.



Wairarapa Cobham Intermediate students taking part in a BBCN workshop, facilitated by local youth workers, sharing their views as part of the 2025 community feedback process.



What makes Bryndwr special?

People told us Bryndwr is a friendly and welcoming place.

What they value most includes:

- Supportive, friendly neighbours
- Strong local connections
- A mix of cultures and backgrounds
- Great parks, schools, and community spaces

Come and be part of it

Bryndwr is shaped by the people who live here — and everyone is welcome to be involved in their own way. You might:

- Want to share an idea
- Get involved in a local event
- Support young people to take part
- Help connect others
- Offer your time, skills, or experience

It's these small contributions that help make our community feel connected, welcoming, and vibrant.



Staying in the loop



We also heard how people prefer to receive information about local events and activities:

- Facebook and other social media
- Flyers, posters, and community noticeboards
- Schools and word of mouth
- Bryndwr Banter (widely read and valued in the community)

Keen to get involved?

We'd love to hear from you

Website: <https://bbcn.org.nz>

Facebook: [BBCN CHCH – Burnside Bryndwr Community Network](#)

Email: BBCN.chch@gmail.com

How a Neighbourhood Support Group began and changed a street



A call came into the Neighbourhood Support Office from a woman who had recently moved into a new home. Shortly after settling in, her husband passed away and she found herself feeling isolated and wanting to connect with people in her street.

At the same time, staff were developing a community-led approach to neighbourhood connection, including the early concept of “Cuppa on the Corner”. Working alongside her, they brought this idea to life as a simple but powerful way for neighbours to meet. Tables and chairs were set up on the berm, with hot drinks and biscuits creating a relaxed space for conversation and connection, alongside a short introduction to Neighbourhood Support.

The event was a great success, with 13 households attending, including families, long-time residents, new arrivals, people new to New Zealand, and students.



One resident shared:

“I moved to New Zealand and had lived here for three years, but I only met my neighbours when the Cuppa on the Corner was held on our street.”

From this gathering, a Neighbourhood Support Group was formed, with three local residents stepping forward as contacts. They later took the initiative to introduce themselves to neighbours who had been unable to attend. Since then, the group has become proactive in sharing safety information, including updates about car break-ins and smoke alarm checks, helping build a more connected and prepared neighbourhood.

Building on this kind of grassroots success, initiatives such as the Council’s ‘Summer with Your Neighbours’ support residents to bring neighbours together in simple, welcoming ways across the city. More about the programme here: <https://ccc.govt.nz/news-and-events/events/community-programmes/summer-with-your-neighbours>

Get involved

If you would like to connect with your local Neighbourhood Support team, please email admin@nschristchurch.org.nz or sign up at: <https://commbase.nz/join/christchurch>

Locally focused to create safer, prepared and more connected neighbourhoods



Kia Ora Bryndwr – Connect with Kai

It was a real shame that Kia Ora Bryndwr – Connect with Kai had to be cancelled in February due to the weather. We know many of you were looking forward to it. The good news is we've already locked in a date for next year and can't wait to see you there! We'll share more details in the winter edition of Bryndwr Banter.



A big shout-out to our colouring competition winners —well done!
 You can see photos of the winners, Juliet Nell and Sophie Ilton, who each received a \$50 Warehouse voucher, along with Anrin, one of three highly commended winners, who received a \$10 Warehouse voucher.

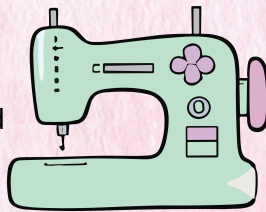


*Our 2026 Colouring Competition Winners
 We loved seeing all the creativity—thank you to everyone who took part!*



Do you have a sewing project you need to complete but don't have a sewing machine at home?

Come into Fendalton Library and use one of their machines for free. This is a DIY service, so you will need to bring your own material, as well as know how to operate a sewing machine or overlocker.



We only supply black and white thread, so if you need another colour, you would need to supply that for your project too.

Talk to a staff member who can book you in to use one of the machines during the hours of 9 am to 7 pm weekdays and 10 am to 3 pm Saturdays.

What's On!

May 2026

7 & 8: The Village - Bryndwr Foot Clinic, 1-4 pm
 @The Village - Bryndwr

June 2026

25 & 26: The Village - Bryndwr Foot Clinic, 1-4 pm
 @The Village - Bryndwr

The Bryndwr Banter and Kia Ora Bryndwr are community-led initiatives brought to you by the Burnside Bryndwr Community Network, with proud support from...

