



Lockdown reflection: Bec Roper-Gee

Our bubble comprised me and Paul, our girls Isla (13) and Annabella (8), 4 chickens, 2 guinea pigs, 1 rabbit, 2 cats and our new puppy Maisy, who came home just in time for level 4. In the first part of lockdown the kids were on holiday, the sun shone and it was novel and fun! We went for lots of bike rides on the quiet roads with Maisy in the basket, hunting for teddy bears in windows and exploring the red zone. We baked lots.

I connected with fewer people, but in new ways. We had online games with my family and a Zoom date with Paul's whanau around New Zealand and his brother in Egypt – which we'd probably never have done if it weren't for lockdown.

I was very grateful for the fruit trees the previous owners of our house planted, our vege garden (Paul does all the hard work!) and eggs from our chickens. It wasn't too hard to stretch out the supermarket visits when there was always something to eat from the garden.

It was a bit of a shock when the school term began and suddenly there were Google meets, Zoom music lessons and class blocks to keep track of.

We kept our bubble the same in level 3, but our big excitements were Thai takeaways and taking Maisy to the beach for the first time. Heading into level 2, I was nervous. Could I cope with 'real life' again? It was somewhat stressful trying to understand systems and keep the right distance from people just at the supermarket and the pharmacy; how would it be in a whole lot more situations? But it was fantastic to see my Dad and sister, and we took Isla and her friends to Orana Park for belated birthday celebrations. And I have now been to the mall and more shops and coped ok!

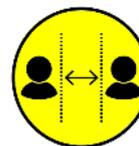
It is nice catching up slowly with one or two people at a time, but I do really look forward to gatherings again – even just being able to congregate at school pick up! Even so, I hope we can hold on to a bit of the lockdown lifestyle – fewer cars, more biking and walking, being kind, treasuring face-to-face time with people... and maybe sometimes still forgetting what day it is and just doing whatever the kids feel like!

Bec has lived around the Shirley area for over 15 years. She is a member of the Board of Trustees at Shirley Primary School and involved in the Shirley Village Project and Shirley Stream Care.



What's happening at the Shirley Community Trust at Level 2?

We can now enjoy the extra freedom Level 2 brings but we need to remember:



Now that gatherings can be up to 100, this means all Trust activities can start again at our centres. Things are likely to be a little different as we work around the rules, but it will be great to connect face-to-face again.

Please follow our Facebook page for updates, or contact Sharyn on 022 621 8269 or Ian 022 277 6288.

While at Level 3, we took the opportunity to give the Neighbourhood Centre a makeover. It now has new paintwork, carpet and lights.

Sharyn will be back at the Neighbourhood Centre on Monday and Wednesday mornings, 10am - 12pm, starting in June so please go and say hi and check out the new-look centre. We want to thank Sharyn for the amazing job she did connecting with our community during lockdown. Be kind to yourself and others and keep smiling.

Kia Kaha

The Shirley Community Trust Team



*Thankfulness:
The theme for the Shirley Community 2020*

Celebrating and being grateful for all we have and enjoy

I wonder what you would say to our May
Question: What is it you treasure in your home and why?



A lady in our community treasures this beautiful greenstone and bone carving, which was given to her by her nephew at her husband's funeral. Whoever's holding it had the right to speak at the funeral. She says that when she feels stressed or worried she holds it and finds it comforting and relaxing; it is something she will always treasure.

The question to reflect on for June is: What is your favourite season of the year and why? We would like to hear your responses. You can put them on the noticeboards at the Park Centre or Neighbourhood Centre or txt Sharyn 022 621 8269 or Carol 027 282 0693.

A thought on thankfulness from Vera: Be thankful when you're tired and weary, because it means you have made a difference.

New Pump Track



The much-awaited modular pump track in the Shirley Community Reserve opened on Monday 25th May. Due to Covid restrictions there could be no official opening, but a small group came to celebrate the arrival of the new track. Thanks to Shannon, a local 12-year-old boy, for his idea, and to the Waipapa Papanui/Innes Community Board for seeing the possibilities and making it a reality.

Shirley Village Project



Residents and organisations working together for a 'caring, colourful and connected' Shirley Community.

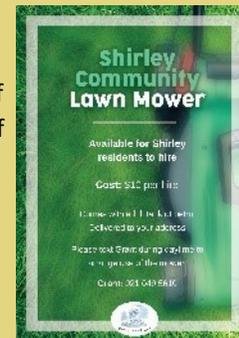


Growing awesome vege gardens

Are you someone who is good at growing vegetables? We need people like you to help families in the Shirley Community start up home vegetable gardens. It's a great way to build community spirit and help families provide for their themselves. If you are able to help, please contact Steve from the Shirley Village Project, phone 021 186 3645, email shirleyvillageproject@gmail.com

Shirley community Lawnmower

Time for a pre-winter trim of the lawns. The Shirley Community lawn mower is available at \$10 per use (comes with a full tank of fuel). Also available are a weed-eater, some gardening tools, leaf rakes and a leaf blower/ vacuum. Text Grant 021 049 510 if you would like to use the mower or other tools.



Graffiti-free Shirley

Graffiti has a huge influence on crime and people's feeling of safety. Thanks to those who are helping make Shirley graffiti free – you are making a difference! Please report any graffiti to the CCC on 0800 800 169 or use the SNAP/SEND/SOLVE app. Remember too, we have a mural project going where anyone with a talent for graffiti art can showcase their work. Phone Steve on 021 186 3645 or email shirleyvillageproject@gmail.com

Community Tool Shed

We are looking to start up a community tool shed. Do you have any unused gardening tools or workshop tools that you no longer need and could donate to the tool shed? If so, please contact Steve, ph. 021 186 3645, email shirleyvillageproject@gmail.com, to arrange pick up. These tools will then be available for people in the Shirley community to borrow.

