



SUMMER OF FUN

Christchurch Earthquake Appeal Trust, The Methodist Church, Anglican Life, Canterbury Earthquake Recovery Authority, Christchurch City Council, Selwyn District Council, Waimakariri District Council, YMCA

Together we coordinated this annual series of free summer family events planned by local communities for local communities in Christchurch City and the Waimakariri and Selwyn districts.

Funded by the Christchurch Earthquake Appeal Trust (CEAT), supported by the Canterbury Earthquake Recovery Authority (CERA) and coordinated by the Anglican and Methodist churches, we set the fun days up to help reconnect communities and raise morale following the 2010 and 2011 earthquakes. The events continue to give neighbourhoods an opportunity to get together and enjoy themselves in an informal way with things like bouncy castles, candy floss, face painting, live music, magic shows, clowns, hāngi and slushy machines on offer.

The Summer of Fun programme took place in 2012, 2013, 2014 and 2015. Planning is under way for 2016 with a focus on making the programme sustainable for the future. Local business support is being gathered to provide funding for local events to replace CEAT funding.

To date almost 200 locally-organised events have taken place with an estimated combined total attendance of 37,500.

Some Summer of Fun 2014/2015 events

Life Church in Upper Riccarton held the first event of the summer on 1 November 2014. It was a tremendous success with a turnout of approximately 400 local people from the local community.

A Life Church representative said *“It was heartening to see so many different groups of people interacting, including young children, teenagers, young families and older people. There was something for everyone - with the free clothes giveaway a particular drawcard for all. Many people commented to our volunteers that they were blown away by the generosity shown towards them, with nothing expected in return.”*

Toddlers' Big Day Out on 25 January 2015 saw 2,000 people in attendance, including babies, toddlers and school-aged children (5-12 years). The event focused on bringing the North Canterbury community together to enjoy a day of children's entertainment and interactive activities and reached out to the community by providing general information and encouraging further knowledge of the community's many activities and education providers.

Young people attended the low-key Bangers and Music event in Sumner on 24 January 2015. Organiser Lukas Thielmann said they wanted to use music to bring local youth together. *“With the loss of city centre, especially in the music community, there is a loss of a central hub. It is slowly coming back but it has still go a long way to go. The music community is a little bit fragmented now, which is one of the reasons why we chose a music theme.”*

A Summer of Fun community fun day at the Central New Brighton School on 25 January 2015 gave parents, students and teachers from the new Rāwhiti School a chance to meet ahead of the new school year. The school has been created from the merger of Central New Brighton, Freeville and North New Brighton schools.

Opawa-St Martins Anglican Parish held a Community Fun Day on 31 January, with approximately 150 people in attendance to enjoy a bouncy castle, giant board games, face painters and a balloon twister. After being asked why the church decided to get involved, they said *“We feel it is a positive service to the community, and that community service is a necessary duty for a church such as ours. Anything that helps to remove stress is a positive thing”.*

“Having seen the positive reactions from people in the community, we are very keen to continue hosting such events and the vestry has proposed we attempt to spend more of our energy on similar projects.”

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