

Sunshine in Shirley

December 2025 / January 2026

Christmas Reflection

Meri Kirihimete

Shirley Community Trust would like to thank you for your support this year. Your contributions help make Shirley a great place to live! It is a privilege for us to work alongside you.

As we approach Christmas, it's good to reflect on the different reactions of some of the people in the Christmas story - Wise Men travelled great distances to find the new King, religious leaders just ignored the signs and thought they knew better, and Herod felt threatened by a new King and actively opposed Him!

How will you react to Jesus this Christmas? Why not check out what it's all about? There are a number of Christmas celebrations and community events, and at least you don't have to ride a camel to get there!

However you celebrate, may Christmas be a special time for you and your whānau. Let's enjoy the summer days, stay connected, and be kind to yourself and others.

From the team at Shirley Community Trust



Te Reo Interview with Cody and Tarryn

Cody Smith and Tarryn Ryan have been teaching te reo Māori beginners classes in Shirley for the last 4 years. They are stepping down from this voluntary role at the end of this year. We asked them a few questions:



Tell us a little about yourselves

Cody is from Rangiora and did not have much exposure to Te Ao Māori until in his mid-20's. An accountant by trade, he has worked in the corporate sector but prefers the non-corporate sector, now working for Big Brothers, Big Sisters.

Tarryn, Kāi Tahu/Ngāpuhi, from Motupōhue, spent 10 years living overseas and speaks German as well as Māori and English. She is a māmā, historian and kaiwhakahaere (organiser/manager) of Kōrero ki Ōtautahi – whose kaupapa is to support learners and speakers of te reo Māori and normalise reo usage around the city. FB - Kōrero ki Ōtautahi

Why have you been taking these te reo classes in Shirley for the last 4 years?

Cody said he learnt the language for free and wanted to give back to community.

Tarryn welcomed an opportunity to have more exposure to te reo and to create more opportunity in the community. So when asked by a friend if they could support these classes, they both put their hands up! The team approach has worked well, with Cody emphasising the grammar and structure of reo, and Tarryn the waiata and kēmu – songs and games. Both agree their level of reo has grown hugely through teaching!

What are you going on to do next year?

Cody is spending 6 months in Japan with his partner, working and learning Japanese.

Tarryn will still be in Christchurch, continuing the mahi of Kōrero ki Ōtautahi and her work as a historian.

Thank you Cody and Tarryn for your amazing koha - gift of te reo Māori classes in Shirley these last 4 years. Your generosity, knowledge and faithfulness in turning up every week has been a real blessing. We treasure you and wish you well in your future endeavours. Ngā mihi ki a kōrua.

Ann Powley - Shirley Community Trust / te reo class participant

We would love to continue to offer te reo Māori learning opportunities in Shirley, but we need your input as to what you would like to see. Please contact office@shirleycommunitytrust.org.nz if you have any ideas or are able to assist.

Dates to remember: - watch our Facebook page for more info on other activities



Barista Training

Already finished - Restarts early February

MacFarlanes on the Park Café

Finishes Friday 5 December - Restarts 13 February

Fruit & Vege Co-op

Finishes Wednesday 10 December - Restarts 11 February

Shirley Sparkling Stars

Finishes Monday 15 December - Restarts Monday 2 February

Kidzone Holiday Programme

Tuesday - Thursday 13-15 & 20-22 January

We will kick off 2026 with a Neighbourhood BBQ in MacFarlane Park on Friday 30 January from 5 pm

Thanks to all those who contribute to this newsletter – through articles or photos plus all those who deliver the copies each month.



Empowering people, changing lives



office@shirleycommunitytrust.org.nz



www.shirleycommunitytrust.org.nz



[shirleycommunitytrust](https://www.facebook.com/shirleycommunitytrust)



03 981 5521



Office is located at corner of Clearbrook Street and Briggs Road

www.shirleyvillage.org
facebook: Shirley Village
instagram: shirleyismyvillage



LISTENING POST WATER FUN

Bring togs & towel to join in water fun on 1 & 8 Dec!

BBQ on 8 Dec.

Listening Post is Mondays 2:30-4pm during school terms at the MacFarlane Park Community Garden (near Jebson St)



What's on in Dec & Jan



Groove & Move Seated Exercise, Park Centre 10am



Sewing Group, Neighbourhood Centre 12-2pm



Walking Group meet at Neighbourhood Centre 10am for a 10:15 departure, outings 16 & 23 Jan



Employment & Service Support at Neighbourhood Centre 11am-1pm or by appointment

CONTACT TERESA 027 581 2555

DECEMBER

on Tue Wed Thu Fri

1 2 3 4 5

8 9 10 11 12

15 16 17 18 19

22 23 24 25 26

29 30 31

JANUARY

Wed Thu Fri Sa

1 2

7 8 9 10

14 15 16 17

21 22 23 24

28 29 30 31



SHARE YOUR IDEAS BY 15 DEC TO BE IN TO WIN A PALMS VOUCHER!

There is an opportunity to develop a youth space in the old Q Store at the Palms. We want to hear your ideas. If you're 11 - 18ish years old, fill out the google form to go in the draw for one of three \$25 Palms vouchers.

<https://forms.gle/QqAXvqja6mb3Rhp78>

Christmas Celebrations and Community Events

Please join us this Christmas...

Carol Service

14 DECEMBER | 10:30am
MAIREHAU HIGH SCHOOL HALL

Hear the Christmas story, sing well-known carols and enjoy musical items from both kids and adults at this service. Followed by a special Christmas morning tea.

Family Service

21 DECEMBER | 10:30am
MAIREHAU HIGH SCHOOL HALL

Join us for an all age, family service full of music, drama and fun as we celebrate the birth of Jesus! Followed by a sausage sizzle for all!

Midnight Service

24 DECEMBER | 11:30pm
MAIREHAU HIGH SCHOOL HALL

A special 'candlelit' midnight service on Christmas Eve! Together we'll sing carols and be reminded of the true meaning of Christmas, as we reflect on the birth of Jesus.

Christmas Day

25 DECEMBER | 9:30am
MAIREHAU HIGH SCHOOL HALL

Celebrate Jesus' birth at our Christmas Day service! We will sing carols and hear a short talk about who Jesus is and why his birth is still significant for us today. Christmas chocolates to follow!

St. Stephen's Church Christchurch | <https://ststephens.org.nz> | 03 980 0929 |



Christmas EVE PARTY

CAROLS FREE BBQ BOUNCY CASTLE

4:30pm - 7pm December 24th

Invite a friend to our Christmas Eve Party. Activities, bouncy castles and a free BBQ dinner followed by a special carol service to celebrate the message of Christmas.

URBAN OASIS C3 CHURCH

Christmas in MacFarlane Park

Sunday 14 December 4.00pm

Christmas carols and message
BYO picnic blanket and salad to share

Emmett Street COMMUNITY CHURCH

Free Community event
ALL WELCOME

Boxing Day Party

Friday 26 December, 11am - 2pm MacFarlane Park

Bouncy Castles, Water Rollers, Kai, Sports, Vibes
FREE Community Event

Emmett Street COMMUNITY CHURCH
shirley community trust
Christchurch City Council

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However, if you do not wish to receive this newsletter, please contact us at office@shirleycommunitytrust.org.nz.

If you would prefer to receive the newsletter in digital format, you can sign up at <https://shirleycommunitytrust.org.nz>. Thanks, the SCT team.