

RICHMOND

COMMUNITY NEWS



Avebury House: 9 Eveleyn Couzins Avenue

Phone: 381-6615

Email: rcn@aveburyhouse.co.nz

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A Dome, a Dark Sky, and a Second Chance in the Red Zone

By Hayley Guglietta - Chairperson Richmond Community Garden Trust

Some ideas arrive before their time.

In 2020, the Richmond Community was offered a remarkable piece of Christchurch history: the original dome from the Regent Theatre. Built in 1904, the dome was saved from post-quake demolition by heritage conservationist and demolition expert Paddy Snowdon, owner of The Pump House. Our community groups developed an exciting concept to give the dome a new public life in the Ōtākaro Avon River Corridor: a dark-sky observatory, a mini-planetarium and education space supporting our advocacy for low-impact lighting in the river corridor.

The idea was simple but ambitious: a walk-in dome space where people could gather, learn about the night sky, and experience darkness as a natural asset rather than something to be engineered away. It aligned strongly with our long-standing work promoting dark sky lighting, not just for star-gazing, but for ecology, human wellbeing, and respect for the river corridor.

Despite strong enthusiasm, the project lost momentum. Governance and decision-making for the Red Zone were uncertain, and without a defined pathway or oversight framework, it simply became too hard to get the project over the line.



Fast-forward to today, and the context has changed. Far more certainty around governance of the Red Zone means community initiatives can now be encouraged within it. The dome itself has been patiently waiting in Linwood for nearly 15 years. It needs restoration, but is a unique heritage structure with the potential to become meaningful again—not locked away, but shared. Similar to Avebury House, which is near the proposed location; a site of similar era and cultural significance, and outside flood-prone areas.

It's not just about saving a building. It's about how we imagine the Red Zone as a space for learning, creativity, memory, and connection - and whether a community-scale planetarium could play a role in that future. Revival isn't always about nostalgia, sometimes it's about choosing the right moment to reignite a flame.

Before going any further, we'd like to hear from you. What do you think about the dome project?

Does a dark-sky education space belong in the Red Zone? How else could this piece of heritage support community life? If you'd like to share your thoughts please contact me at: chair@richmondcommunitygarden.co.nz

Richmond Community News is brought to you by Avebury House Community Trust and the following people:

Editorial: Tanya Didham.
Layout: Kristine Spoor.

Many thanks to our volunteers who deliver the RCN to 2800 households and businesses throughout Richmond.

The RCN is now available online:
www.aveburyhouse.co.nz/newsletter.html

Contact us at: rcn@aveburyhouse.co.nz or ring Avebury House: **03 381 6615**.

Disclaimer: Views and opinions expressed in the Richmond Community News are not necessarily those of the editor or Avebury House Community Trust. No responsibility is accepted for incorrect information contained in advertisements or editorials. Advertisements for publication are accepted in good faith and publication of an advertisement does not imply endorsement by Avebury House Community Trust.



The Wit of Sam

My girlfriend dressed up as a policewoman and told me I was under arrest on suspicion of being good in bed. After 2 minutes all charges were dropped due to a lack of evidence.



Smoking will kill you. Bacon will kill you. Smoking bacon will cure it!



I started reading a horror story in braille... Feels like something bad is going to happen.

Illustration by Stephanie Terris

Tuition

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E: katharinebeaumont@gmail.com

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Going Up?

At Avebury we keep our exercise classes as low-priced as we possibly can because staying fit should be affordable. All our classes are currently a \$10 koha, or you can buy a 10-click card for \$90. It's been two years since we had a price increase, and to keep it viable, we need to add a little to the cost. **From JUNE 1ST, concession cards will go up to \$100 for 10 classes, and our suggested casual koha will become \$12.**

Writing Your Personal Stories for the Next Generations

Do you enjoy writing stories about your personal life experiences? Or stories from your family whakapapa? Do your younger family members ask about stories and rumours they have heard?



If so, please join our small group every second and fourth Wednesday of the month, 10am to 12 noon, at Avebury House.

We write, chuckle, enthuse, and share (if you wish to) ideas and stories, all in a non-threatening way. It is amazing how our lives are all so intriguingly different, according to our upbringings and life experiences.

To enquire or join, please email Graham at grahamandlois@xtra.co.nz

Kintsugi at Avebury - 16 May

Ema Frost is bringing her Kintsugi workshop to Christchurch for the sixth time this May!

Learn this magical Japanese art, and restore a broken treasure in this beautiful style, using gold to turn imperfections into beauty.



If you don't have any broken crockery, you can also apply this technique to materials like glass, wood, greenstone and even shells. Project pieces will be available if you don't have your own.

Saturday 16th May: 10:30am - 12:30pm OR 2:00 - 4:00pm @ Avebury House

Bookings are essential via Ema's website:

<https://emafrost.com/collections/workshop/products/kintsugi-workshop-in-christchurch-saturday-16th-may-avebury-house>

Anzac Remembrance Walk - Saturday 25 April, 10am - 11am



Join us at Avebury House on Anzac Day as we remember those who served and those who did not return home. Our Anzac Crosses

installation will be erected on the riverbank by Matty - the amazing volunteer who made them - by Thursday 23rd weather-permitting. At 10am on Saturday, Stuart the Piper will call people to the front of the house where history volunteer David will introduce himself, then he and Stuart will lead the walk, along the City to Sea, to the riverside crosses. Here David will give another brief talk and we'll pause to reflect.

In the past we have taken a circuitous route back to Avebury through the red zone, as part of the Walking Festival, but as we are outside the festival dates this year, we will simply return to the house for a cuppa and an Anzac biscuit, made by Mary, another of our incredible volunteers. Donations accepted but not required. Everyone welcome!

Winter Woollies Call-Out!

From Linda Goodwin, Christchurch Collective for the Homeless



With homelessness sadly on the increase in Christchurch, and winter looming, the Christchurch Collective for the Homeless is seeking 'woollen only' clothing for our citizens doing it tough on the streets. Do you have any woollen/

merino jerseys, socks, long johns, beanies - no synthetics please - that you can donate? Your support will be deeply appreciated.

Avebury House is a collection point in Richmond. Please drop in your good condition woollies to the office between 9am and 1pm during the week. Or contact us to arrange a different time **03 381 6615** or email admin@aveburyhouse.co.nz.

OP SHOP OPEN!

Holy Trinity Avonside, 170 Stanmore Road
Wednesday and Thursdays, 10am to 2pm

Any enquiries please email:
office@holyltrinityavonside.nz



Avebury's First Clothes Swap!

By Mary Hollander, photo by Gina Hubert

A lovely evening was had by all at Avebury's first clothes swap on Friday February 20th. So many generous people had a clear-out of their pre-loved clothes, handbags and shoes - it was hands down the best place in town for high heels! Everyone who came along went home with a big smile, and armfuls of fabulous, new-to-them clothes - plus we raised some funds for Avebury along the way! Huge thanks to my fellow volunteers, Gina, Marie, Kathryn, Ingrid and Beth for all the sorting, folding, chatting and laughing.

Watch this space for the next one, we're thinking of running them twice a year.

We'd love your feedback - did you enjoy it as much as we did? Maybe you'd like to help out in future. Email Mary via admin@aveburyhouse.co.nz



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**Is your health
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Here Toitū is a **no cost** support service provided by Pegasus Health in partnership with the Ministry of Social Development.

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Email: HereToitu@pegasus.health.nz
Website: www.pegasus.health.nz





Red to Green - Photo Winners!

A Liverpoolian and a Colombian who have made Christchurch their home captured the essence of the City to Sea Pathway during the summertime Re-photography Competition run by Avon Ōtākaro Network (AvON).

David Ford and Laura Cortes (pictured) each won a \$75 photo printing voucher from Kens Cameras, after the adjudicating decision was made by business owner Ken Surie and his team. Entries had to reflect the theme of 'red to green' and be taken of, through, or beside any of the six giant metal photo frames installed along the developing pathway. David confessed to not knowing about the pathway - which meanders alongside the Avon River through the former red zone - prior to seeing the competition details on Facebook.

"I was absolutely surprised," says the Rangiora resident, who rarely comes into Christchurch but has decided to bring in his bike and travel most of the trail's 11km. "It's a place of tranquility, beauty, and reflection," he enthuses. Conversely, Laura was already familiar with at least one of the bright yellow photo frames, which

she regularly passes en route to her favourite coffee shop. When her flatmate told her about the competition, Laura says she just had to wait for the right inspirational moment to get her shot.

"One day I was going back home and I saw the women, and I thought they will look very good," she says. "So I walked fast and just waited for them, to take the photo." says Laura, who is keen to be a professional photographer.



The winners of the #REDTOGREEN Re-Photography Competition met up by the giant photo frame at Riverlution Hub. Laura and David were both inspired by the City to Sea Pathway, and encourage others to explore its tranquility and beauty.

Now that David is familiar with the pathway, he encourages more people to experience it. "Rarely in a city do you see such an expanse of pure tranquility and reflection. It's just beautiful."

AvON thanks everyone, of all ages, who took part in the competition. A selection of entrants' photos can be viewed at <https://www.facebook.com/AvONetwork>

A map of the trail and associated community stories are at <https://avonotakaronetwork.org/explore-the-otakaro-greenspine/>



Walking Festival - RedZone Dogs Walk - Sunday 18 April, 10am

Does your doggo like hanging out with other doggos? Bring them along to Richmond Community Garden at 10am on Sunday April 18th, and join us for a 30-45 minute wander in the very green, former red zone! Redzone Dogs Ōtautahi is a community of dog-lovers who host several regular walks in the area for people and their pooches! Find out more about them and join other strolls!

This Walking Festival event is co-hosted by RedZone Dogs and We are Richmond. Check the facebook event.

www.facebook.com/events/911877571758869/



Casa Bike Day on the City to Sea Pathway

By Maree Orland from Casa dei Bambini, 50 Flesher Ave

Bike Day for the Casa dei Bambini children was a much-anticipated adventure on wheels. The City to Sea Pathway became a hub of youthful energy and excitement, encouraging physical activity while highlighting the importance of cycle safety for our young riders.

First our tamariki had their helmets fitted, with parents learning how to adjust them for proper protection. Helmets are especially crucial while young ones develop coordination and balance.

Teachers, alongside Jan from CycleSafe and Community Constable Jeff, guided two groups of preschoolers along the City to Sea Pathway, teaching them to stay to the left, watch out for others, and cross the path safely. Basic road rules, presented in a fun and interactive manner, help children gain confidence, building foundational skills for safe future cycling.

Those remaining at school developed cycle maintenance skills: cleaning, oiling and pumping tyres. Learning about the parts of a bike and how to care for it instilled them with pride and they took their work very seriously.

Community members on the pathway gave us lots of friendly greetings and encouragement, and our preschoolers started their cycling journey with confidence, awareness, and a sense of belonging.



We Are Richmond meets every 4th Tuesday of the month. Next meeting is Tuesday, 28 April, 7-9pm at Avebury House. Everyone welcome! www.facebook.com/share/1LMBXRfEJq/

DELTA'S NEW THURSDAY EVENING CAFÉ!

By Sandy Galland

At Delta Community Trust there is a simple belief that shared food and genuine connection can help transform communities. Our next evolution is an afternoon/evening café providing hot, nutritious kai for whānau - set to launch in late April.

The Thursday evening community café will be a welcoming, family-focused space created in response to the growing cost of living and the reality of food inequity in our neighbourhoods. The café will serve a selection of hot, nutritious, affordable meals to eat in or take home. Children under 12 eat for free!



Volunteer With Us!

The café is about more than food, it's about creating a space where people feel welcome, where conversations flow, and where

bodies, bellies, and souls are nourished. It's also a space for volunteers to get involved and gain real-world restaurant experience, a possible step towards future employment in the hospitality sector.

To bring this vision to life, Delta needs a team of helping hands each Thursday. A range of volunteer roles need to be filled - whether you're an experienced cook or a young person looking for kitchen assistant experience, there is an opening.

A chance to give back, meet new people, share your skills, and be part of something meaningful in this community.

To apply email jeremy@deltatrust.org.nz.

This new initiative sits alongside Monday Brunch Café and the Wednesday and Friday cafes – where a hot lunch is just \$5. All are open to the public. For more information – head to the Delta Community Support Trust Facebook page.

Delta's Foot Clinic



Take a step towards better foot health!

Delta's **nurse-led Foot Clinic** offers a **relaxing foot spa, expert nurse-led nail care, and gentle foot massage**, helping prevent infections, pain, and mobility issues. Delivered by a Registered Nurse, our trained team ensures safe, hygienic, and compassionate support, including practical guidance to maintain foot health between visits.

The Foot Clinic runs every six weeks, by appointment only, on Mondays, 12–2.30pm, at 101 North Avon Road. Cost is just \$15 and spaces are limited. To book call Delta on 03 389 0212. Next clinic is **Monday, 20th April**.

Mind Yer Language: Droning On

By Tanya Didham

When we think of onomatopoeia, we think of words like crack, beep, slurp and whoosh! Good examples; but we also like to name animals by imitating the sounds they make. Especially birds. Examples include the cuckoo, whip-poor-will, kookaburra, and at home, the kea, the



whoio and both ruru and morepork - different sound names for the same small native owl; which by the way is another onomatopoeic bird name. Owl comes from the Old English *ule*, as with *crow/crawe* and *raven/hræfn*. All bird sounds.

Onomatopoeic non-birds include critters like crickets and katydids, macaques, dik-diks, chipmunks and pobblebunks (an Aussie frog of course). And not only did the humble bee give us an onomatopoeic 'buzz', it is also the origin of 'drone'. A word that has come all the way from describing the sound of a male bee's daily grind, to the monotonous tone of a dull speaker, to a featureless automaton, to a remotely operated flying camera, to a high-tech military asset!

We also enjoy onomatopoeic names for the noises our own bodies make, like belch, hiccup, cough and sigh. Even 'laugh' is thought to be an attempted laughter sound. All languages do it, and it's interesting to hear the difference. For example a 'fart' in French is 'pet', in German 'furz', in Norwegian 'fjert', and in Dutch, the ominous 'scheet'. OK, I'll stop droning on about onomatopoeia now - yawn!

Puzzle

Find these big, big words in the letter grid.



brodingnagian
capacious
colossal
commodious
elephantine

gargantuan
humungous
monumental
prodigious
voluminous

D	Z	E	J	Q	B	O	J	E	Y	C	B	D
L	O	W	I	M	X	H	U	W	R	O	R	Q
A	G	W	S	U	O	N	I	M	U	L	O	V
T	S	O	U	B	U	M	Q	U	E	O	B	C
N	K	U	Z	P	B	Z	Z	N	F	S	D	D
E	P	R	O	D	I	G	I	O	U	S	I	L
M	L	U	W	G	L	X	B	D	H	A	N	S
U	K	E	A	V	N	Q	X	V	D	L	G	T
N	H	X	P	Y	M	U	T	B	R	W	N	K
O	O	C	R	H	L	G	M	I	X	M	A	B
M	G	A	R	G	A	N	T	U	A	N	G	S
Q	U	P	R	W	R	N	S	X	H	A	I	U
G	D	A	P	G	Y	Y	T	A	C	N	A	J
F	E	C	K	U	X	O	J	I	X	C	N	Z
C	Y	I	J	T	T	K	S	R	N	C	R	N
Z	C	O	G	B	X	D	D	J	Y	E	W	X
D	T	U	C	I	E	Y	K	A	U	V	U	T
A	E	S	Q	E	W	P	J	M	F	J	F	O
K	C	O	M	M	O	D	I	O	U	S	H	N

City to Sea East is Underway!

Construction started this week on City to Sea East, which runs between Porritt Park and SH74 in Avondale. The shared walking and cycling path is part of the Ōtākaro Avon River Corridor Regeneration Plan and is being built in three stages. Stage one, the western portion, was finished last year and the next stage is expected to take approximately nine months to build.

"As part of the project we are installing several breakout spaces and nature play areas. There will also be plantings, to help with ecological restoration, and lighting so that the space can still be used safely as the days get shorter and winter approaches." Mr Little says there has also been progress at Avon Park. "There is now pedestrian access through the park, instead of people

coming off Snell Bridge and having to detour around it."

Detailed design work is currently being completed on the third and final section, with construction work expected to begin

before the end of the year. Once finished, the City to Sea pathway will be around 11km long following the course of the Ōtākaro Avon River from the city to New Brighton.



Walking the River

Kia ora Richmond, and welcome to autumn!

It's hard to believe we're already a quarter of the way through the year. I've been enjoying the more settled sunny weather and watching the first leaves begin to fall across our neighbourhood.

What better way to welcome the season than by celebrating at the Richmond Gala! I enjoyed checking out the new Wonky Veg Competition, revisiting some of the returning stalls, and watching the performers. Thank you to everyone who stopped by my stand for a chat, enrolled to vote or updated their enrolment details - and of course, joined me for a turn on the chocolate wheel!

Earlier this month, we kicked off our first Walk the Talk for the year, with more than a hundred people joining me to explore the City to Sea Pathway. We set off from the Templar Street gateway and made our way down to the Richmond Community Gardens. It was great to see the pathway so well used, and our large group doing its best to share the space with other walkers and cyclists alike. A big thank you to everyone who came along and braved the incredibly warm morning, and special thanks to our guest speakers, Regional Councillor Ashley Campbell and Gemma Smith from ECan. Follow me on facebook for details on the next one in May: www.facebook.com/ReubenDavidsonLabour/



Ngā mihi

Reuben Davidson | MP for Christchurch East
chcheast@parliament.govt.nz | 03 382 0288 | 0800 MP EAST (67 3278)
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What's on in Richmond



AVEBURY HOUSE,
9 Eveleyn Couzins Avenue.
Phone (03) 381-6615
The office is open Mon to Fri
from 9 am to 1 pm.

Monday

Men's Shed: Contact Ian at 027 555 8368.

Gentle Exercise: 10:30–11:30 a.m.

A tutor will guide you through a routine designed to keep those muscles moving! \$5/session.

Pilates: 10:30am \$10/session. Bookings required, contact **0272515475**.

Yoga: 6pm. \$10/session.

Tuesday

Yoga: 9:00–10:00 a.m. Join us for a good stretch! Beginners welcome. \$10/session.

Tai Chi: 10:30 a.m. \$10/session

Small White Teapot Group: Haiku group meets every 4th Tuesday of the month at 12pm. Contact Barbara at **021 171 8622**.

Pilates: 5:30pm \$10/session. Bookings required, contact **0272515475**.

Wednesday

Pilates: 10:30am, 5:30pm & 6:30pm. \$10/session. Bookings required, contact **0272515475**.

Write Your Own History: Every 2nd and 4th Wed of the month. 10 a.m. –12 noon. Please email to confirm at

grahamandlois@xtra.co.nz.

Hugs All Round Quilting Group:

1–3 p.m. We make quilts for children who need an extra hug. Join us to learn more about quilting.

Thursday

Pilates: 10:30a.m. \$10/session. Bookings required, contact **0272515475**.

Alexander Yoga: 6pm. Bookings required. Contact Teresa 02102671668.

Saturday

Yoga: 9am, \$10/session.

Pilates: 10am, \$10/session.

SHIRLEY LIBRARY,

36 Marshland Road (by the Palms Mall).
Phone (03) 941-7923

Tuesday

Wā Kōrero: Storytimes: 10.30–11am
Suitable for ages 2–5. Free.

Dungeon Delvers: 3:45pm - 5:15pm. 10-16 years old. Registration required.

Wednesday

Wā Kōrero-Storytimes - 10:30 - 11am.
Suitable for 2-5 years old.

Craft Collective: 11am-12pm. Come along to our Craft Collective sessions and have a go at something new. Free.

Scrabble Club: 1:30pm–3:30pm
All materials are supplied. Free, no bookings required.

Dungeon Delvers: 3:45pm - 5:15pm. 10-16 years old. Registration required.

Sensory Craft for Pēpi:

11–11.30am. Suitable for ages 0–2. Free.

Thursday

JP Clinic: 10am–1pm.

Wā Pēpi: Babytimes

10.30–11am. Suitable for ages 0–2. Free.

Me Kōrero Tatou (Te Reo Language Group): 1.30–2.30pm. Suitable for all ages. Free.

No bookings required. All skill levels welcome.

Code Club @ Shirley: 3:45pm - 5:15pm.

9-11 years old. Registrations required.

Friday

Cards at Shirley: 1.00–3.30pm. Free. No bookings required.

Saturday

Family History Help: 10.00am–Midday

1st and 3rd Saturday of the month
Ran by the Canterbury Genealogy Society.
Free. No bookings required.

Saturday Storytimes: 10:30am-11:30am.

Mahjong Club: 1.00–3.30pm

Free. No bookings required.

SHIRLEY COMMUNITY TRUST & SHIRLEY VILLAGE PROJECT

www.shirleycommunitytrust.org.nz
03 981 5521

www.shirleyvillage.org **021 157 7846**

TTO = Term time only

Neighbourhood Centre: 17 Acheson Ave

Community Hub & Barista Training:
Mon & Wed 10am - 2pm TTO

Employment & Services Support:
Weds, 11am - 1pm

Sewing Circle: Fortnightly Thursday
12-2pm. Shirley yellow bin weeks.

MacFarlanes on the Park Cafe:

Fridays, 9:30 - 12pm, TTO

Walking Group: Friday 10am, TTO.

Women's Group: Fortnightly Thursday

12.30pm, Shirley red bin weeks. TTO.

Park Centre: 19 Acheson Ave

Sparkling Stars: Mon, 9:30am, Music & movement for under 5s. \$3/family. TTO.

Nurse-led Foot Care Clinic: Approx monthly on Tuesday 9:45am.

Appointments essential.

Call 0226218269. \$15.

Knit & Knatter Group: Fortnightly
Wed, 10am. Shirley yellow bin weeks.

All Age Community Kapa Haka:

Wednesday 5.15-6.15pm, TTO.

Te Reo Māori Class: Wednesday 6.30-7.30pm, TTO.

Groove & Move: Seated Exercise
Sessions. Fortnightly Wednesday,
Shirley red bin weeks & weekly
Thursday 10am. TTO.

MacFarlane Park Community Garden
(off Jebson St)

Listening Post: Monday 2:30-4pm.
Afternoon tea. TTO.

Children's Gardening Club: Tuesday
3.15-4pm, TTO.

Gardening: Thursday 1pm (Term 2 & 3).

Shirley League Club 33 Briggs Rd.

Shirley Tool Shed: Saturday 9-11am.
\$30 annual membership.

RICHMOND COMMUNITY GARDEN

Riverlution EcoHub,
46A Vogel St



Garden Days: Monday
Wednesday & 3rd Saturday of
the month from 10am. to 1pm.
We welcome volunteers!

Riverlution Eco Hub: Mon-Fri,
9:30am-4pm & Sat, 10am-1pm.

Repair Revolution: Every
3rd Tuesday of the month at
5:30pm.

Crafternoons: Tuesdays, 12pm
Riverlution Market: Saturdays,
9am

Yoga: Sundays, 8am

EASTERN COMMUNITY SPORT & RECREATION,

Email: Kate@easterncommunity.co.nz

Ph: 027 728 3005

Catchball: 10:30am – 12:00pm Tuesdays
term time only. First time free, **contact@**
canterburycatchball.nz

Free Football Dropin for Children: 3-4pm at
Avon Hub Tuesdays. Suitable for 8+ years.

Pickleball session: Tuesdays 9-10:30am \$7.

Use the book a class option at

www.pay2play.co.nz to save your spot.

Pickleball session Sunday mornings:

10-11:30am \$7

Dance Fitness: Tuesdays, 7pm, \$7/class

Eastern Chargers Junior Basketball League:
4:30-7pm, Fridays. For Years 5-8. Term time
only.



DELTA COMMUNITY TRUST,
101 North Avon Road (Entrance
off Chrystal St)

Ph: (03) 389-0212, Free phone

0800233582.

www.deltatruster.org.nz

A Place for Community, Connection & Care: Delta is a welcoming community hub where individuals, whānau, and neighbours can come together for connection, support, and a sense of belonging.

Monday Café: Every Monday except public holidays. 10am-12.30pm \$3 Hot Toasties, Tea & Coffee 50c.

Friday Drop-Inn café: Every Friday except public holidays. 10am-12.30pm. Choice of 2 mains only \$5, Dessert \$3, tea & Coffee 50c. Lunch served at 12noon.

Free Budgeting Advice and Advocacy:
Please ring for an appointment.

North Avon Community Centre

Filipino Playgroup: Every Wednesday
9:30am-12:30pm (Except Public & School holidays) For more information contact Jo
jo@odt.org.nz or **021-1151657**