

Post Earthquake Activities 2011

Post EQ Childrens Programmes

A MASSIVE thank you to the many volunteers, organisations and entertainers who worked alongside us as we delivered childrens programmes after the February Earthquake. The need came from the immediate closure of all local schools, and the unknown date of their reopening. As a local trusted agency that provides children and youth activities, we were approached by local parent asking if we were going to offer anything while the schools were closed. With discussions with Central New Brighton School and some key leaders and staff, we put together a fun childrens programme, on school grounds from Monday 28th Feb. Our daily programme ran for 11 days, and over 1500 children signed in! All this was done with a youthwork staff team of 4 paid staff, 12 key volunteers and over 70 volunteers, who gave of their time setting up, running sports, crafts, painting faces, making jewellery, looking after bouncy castles, cooking sausages, entertaining, signing children in, chatting to parents and families and bringing smiles, laughter, and hope back into a scared community. We had different entertainers each day, including people who donated their time for free from all over the country! We had very positive feedback from parents, children and the community, and got numerous thank you letters, and some good media coverage, including Newspaper articles, and TV Cameras visited us too!

NEWS

CHRISTCHURCH MAIL, MARCH 9, 2011 23

Casting earthquake blues away...

More than 500 youngsters turned up in the first four days of Youth Alive Trust's special programme at Central New Brighton School and more are joining in.

The idea was to give children structure and keep them engaged, Youth Alive team leader James Ridpath said.

The programme would run week days, 10.30am to 12.30pm until school reopened.

The free activities for pre schoolers to 13 year olds included sports, bouncy castles, games, sprints, arts and crafts, barbecues and entertainers.

It started after parents dropping in to Grace Vineyard Church's beach campus care centre inquired about activities.

"We had no power, no water and no building to use but we wanted to do something, and it's amazing how it's all come together," Mr Ridpath said.

Teachers, sports coaches, mums, dads and teens joined with Youth Alive's regular staff and volunteers to run the fun activities.

Sport Canterbury and Tiddlers Multisport had also offered their resources and coaches.

"The atmosphere has been brilliant all week, and parents have been so thankful that their children have had something to look forward to every day," Mr Ridpath said.

"Routine is an important way of getting over this disaster, so we've kept it light hearted and had lots of laughs."

One mother said it was the first



Fun time: Beach kids enjoy the moment.



Get moving: Youth Alive teamster Tash Britt leading a dance workshop for youngsters in New Brighton.

time her daughter has left her side since the quake and the first time she had seen her laugh.

"Some parents were making the most of the free time to clean

houses and do other tasks or meet for coffee.

■ Youth Alive Trust can be contacted on 3885459 or visit www.yat.org.nz



Clowning around: Entertainers having fun. PHOTOS: ANTHONY CRAIG PHOTOGRAPHY.

To watch a home made video all about our programmes, go to this You Tube clip:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JbuZ2qTm0q4>

To see a TV3 article about Recreation post EQ, filmed at our Childrens Programmes and talking to our parents and partners, go to:

<http://www.3news.co.nz/Post-quake-trauma-a-major-health-concern/tabid/309/articleID/201565/Default.aspx>



Light relief: Children and volunteers enjoy the bouncy castle at the Youth Alive Trust children's programme in New Brighton. *Photo: James Ridpath*

Robin Raymond

IT'S not being used for classes, but Central New Brighton School has been a hive of activity for young people across the eastern suburbs this week.

The school has been the base for a children's programme run by the Youth Alive Trust for two hours everyday, giving parents and kids a break and helping with life after the earthquake.

Youth Alive Trust team leader James Ridpath said around 600 children attended the event last week.

"Last Thursday we had 180 kids and families and every other day it's averaging around 100."

Even though the programme runs

outside, Monday's wet weather had not stopped over 70 children turning up to enjoy activities like face painting, football coaching and a magic show.

Around 20-30 volunteers are running the programme with donated supplies including marquees, bouncy castles and a free BBQ for the children.

Mr Ridpath said the programme was trying to provide as many options as possible for the children from circus skills to jewellery making.

"We've got different stations and the kids can just go from one to the other depending on what they want.

"People from the library are going to come down and do some story times. Sports Canterbury and Mainland Football are down doing coaching. Last week they did touch rugby and we had a dance workshop and a couple of magicians.

"After that the families can go over the road to the church and get a meal, because the [Grace Vineyard] church is doing hot meals."

Mr Ridpath said the programme would run as long as it was needed.

"We'll definitely be running for the rest of the week and after that we don't know, it depends on when the schools open up."

Schools Fun Afternoons

Due to the success of the Post EQ Childrens Programmes, we had local schools ask if we could do something similar for them, as they were beginning to reopen. Children were scarred about going back onto school premises, as this was where most of them where during the Feb EQ. We wanted to promote school to be a fun place, a safe place and a happy place, so ran similar programmes and activities – including all our partners too and entertainers. The whole school would close for the afternoon and parents were also invited to join in, and the incentive of the free BBQ also helped! We then went on tour and did 5 Fun afternoons at local schools:

- 1) Central New Brighton Primary
- 2) South New Brighton Primary
- 3) North New Brighton Primary
- 4) New Brighton Catholic
- 5) Freeville Primary

This catered for approximately another 1500 pupils, plus teachers and families who were also invited. They were so successful the schools have asked if we'd consider running such event at the beginning of each year – if we could find funding. Here are some photos and you can see video footage in the YouTube Clip.



Central New Brighton School

Central New Brighton School community nurtures social, academic and physical growth
As a friendly, secure school we value a safe, stimulating environment
Working together to be the best we can be

Services Road
Christchurch 800
New Zealand
Telephone: (03) 388-9098
Facsimile: (03) 388-4714
Email: office@cnbs.school.nz
Web: www.cnbs.school.nz
Holding Principal

14.4.2011

To whom it may concern:

Recently the Youth Alive Trust were integral to providing care and support for our children and many others in the Brighton Community after the February 22nd earthquake.

James Ridgpath and his band of caring supporters initiated a free children's programme of activities during the morning that the local schools were closed. This was an amazing initiative that meant some of our distraught children had a chance to relax and to smile with others that were going through the same thing they were.

Once this school reopened on the 15th March they also organised an afternoon programme for us. This culminated in a 'fun afternoon' including games, face painting, food and skateboarding. (See below). I cannot express how much this meant to our children, staff and community and the difference it made to us reopening the school. ☺



Funding activities such as these is always an issue and we would support them in requesting any help with this that you could provide.

Yours sincerely

Tricia Carroll
Acting Principal



NORTH NEW BRIGHTON SCHOOL BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Telephone: 388 9475
Principal and Office
Facsimile: 388 9817
LEAVITT TERRACE
NORTH NEW BRIGHTON
CHRISTCHURCH 8002 N.Z.

30 May 2011

To Everyone at Youth Alive

Thank you very much for the wonderful family fun day you arranged and for the sausage sizzle you provided. It certainly put a smile on our school communities faces.

A wonderful time was had by all with a lot of laughter and fun and was a great way for the students to return to school and enjoy some fun times. Thank you also for what you did for the community in the days following the earthquake. You are a definite asset to our community and do a wonderful job.

I hope you enjoy the enclosed photographs of the day.

Again thank you for the lovely insights.

Kind regards

Linda Boyce
Chairperson
Board of Trustees
North New Brighton School

NEW BRIGHTON CATHOLIC SCHOOL

341 Lonsdale Street
Christchurch 8002
New Zealand
Ph: (03) 388 7962
Fax: (03) 388 7962
Email: office@nbs.school.nz
www.newbrightoncatholic.school.nz

11 April 2011

Ms R Sanger
Children's Ministry Director
Grace Vineyard Church
PO Box 12606
CHRISTCHURCH 8011

Dear Rachel

We loved having Ngila visit our Year 1-4 students and staff! Thank you so much for organising it. We have heard comments such as "I haven't laughed like that for a long time" and "I laughed so much I had tears". Please pass our donation of \$100 to Ngila.

James and the wonderful Youth Alive team organised a fantastic Friday fun afternoon for the whole school. Everyone had a great time. Please pass our donation of \$150 to the Youth Alive team.

Again, many thanks.

Best wishes

John Daines
Principal



SOUTH NEW BRIGHTON Ko Te Korero Karoro

11 April 2011

To Whom It May Concern:

On Wednesday 30th March, James Ridgpath the local 'Youth Alive Trust' team leader coordinated a 'Fun Afternoon' for our school which was superbly organised and a fantastic success. Our students have gone through so much over the last six months so it was great to see so many happy and smiling faces.

Both staff and parents have commented favourably about the event and how much the children enjoyed it. Parents have also taken the time to write or email me about it.

Once again, our heart felt thanks go to James and his team! I have concluded with a quote from one of our parent's letters. "Thank you for organising the afternoon in which my daughter especially enjoyed having the 'gitter balls' - personal attention approach and horse rides, bouncy castle, candy floss etc. I have learnt that only those living in the area can fully understand what the community has been through and are there to help each other through these stressful times!"

Yours sincerely

B.J. Bockett
Principal

Silt Shifting & Care Centre

In the emergency situation after the EQ, our regular young people and volunteers got involved in helping shift silt from people's homes and helped with the food distribution centre that was operating in New Brighton. Many of them were involved on a daily basis, and it was through this activity, that they were able to help their own mental health. Sometime we would take a van of young people to help in a particular area, and this included after the most recent aftershocks on 13th June, when schools were closed for a few days.

They were given no pay or particular reward for their work, but it really made us youth leaders proud of their selflessness as they were helping strangers. It's this positive publicity that young people often miss out on, but being in a group environment was all the motivation many of them needed.



Post EQ Football Fest

Many agencies wanted to do something positive for the people affected by the EQ, including celebrity football stars! A contact of Wynton Rufer had been helping us on our post EQ childrens programmes, and approached us about doing a special holiday programme for children, using our community contacts and organisation, as they're based in Auckland. We were able to publicise it through all the local schools, our networks and even take our whole normal holiday programme for a football fest. Over a 2 day period Wynton and his coaches used Thomson Park for coaching 400 children aged 5 – 12 years old. They gave away free footballs, and free food, and lots of autographs. Current All White Aaron Clapham also made a guest appearance! Thanks to our volunteers who helped make this happen, and hopefully we'll be able to use this contact for future events too!



CHRISTCHURCH MAIL, APRIL 13, 2011 27



Big name: NZ football legend Wynton Rufer playing an exhibition game with juniors and seniors past and present from the Halswell club last year.

Rufer to coach eastside kids

Football legend Wynton Rufer and his top coaches from his Auckland Academy WYNRS will run a Free Football Fest for children in the city's eastern suburbs hardest hit by the February 22 quake.

The coaching clinics will be held at Thomson Park, Marine Parade, North Beach next Tuesday (five to eight-year-olds) and next Wednesday (nine to 12-year-olds).

For the morning clinics (9.30am to 12 noon) both groups should register via Youth Alive Trust on 3885459 or office@yat.org.nz.

Registrations for the afternoon sessions (1pm to 4pm) for both groups are via Maureen Clark, (03) 3188271 or family-

clark@clear.net.nz.

Two hundred free soccer balls signed by Rufer, Oceania Player of the Century, will be handed out along with free sausages, free apples and free pump water donated by Auckland companies for the eastside youngsters.

Christchurch friend and spokesman Gideon Hoekendijk said most of Rufer's expenses had been covered by sponsors including Air New Zealand and Rufer's WYNRS academy.

Christchurch player and current All White Aaron Clapham will also be present on Wednesday.

"This promises to be such an encouragement to the kids in east Christchurch," Mr Hoekendijk said.

POST-QUAKE FOOTBALL FEST

To my Youth Alive Master

WITH WYNTON RUFER

- OCEANIA PLAYER OF THE CENTURY
- UEFA A - LICENSE COACH
- FOUNDER OF NZ'S NO. 1 FOOTBALL ACADEMY

EXPERIENCE HIS LOVE AND PASSION FOR THE BEAUTIFUL GAME. FOR ALL BOYS AND GIRLS WHO DREAM OF REPRESENTING NZ. PLAYERS WHO WANT TO BECOME A PRO...

FREE EVENT!

TRAIN AND PLAY THE WYNTON WAY

WERDER BREMEN - STAR OF THE 90'S
EUROPEAN CUP FINAL GOAL SCORER
AND WINNER 1992
CHAMPIONS LEAGUE TOP SCORER 1993

LEARN NOW FROM THIS MASTER

TUE 19 AND WED 20
APRIL 2011

THOMSON PARK PLAYING FIELDS,
MARINE PARADE, NORTH NEW BRIGHTON

TUE 5-8 YEAR OLDS
AND WED 9-12 YEAR OLDS.
FROM 9.30 TO 12NOON
BOTH DAYS

FREE APPLES AND WATER!
REGISTER YOUR NAME, AGE,
EMAIL AND PHONE WITH:
YOUTH ALIVE TRUST ON 388 5459,
VISIT GRACE VINEYARD BEACH CAMPUS,
111 SEAVIEW ROAD, NEW BRIGHTON,
OR: OFFICE@YAT.ORG.NZ

WWW.WYNRS.CO.NZ

REGISTRATIONS ARE LIMITED!

NOW IS YOUR CHANCE TO LEARN FROM THE BEST...


Regular Programmes

We know the importance of keeping children in routine and that's why we got our regular clubs up and running as soon as the building got the green sticker and our volunteers were ready. The purposes of the clubs is to provide a safe, fun, challenging and inspiring place for children and young people to go. Taking children and young people off the streets makes them a safer place, and more importantly is safer for the children and young people! Volunteers are going through their own EQ related issues, so we are short in certain clubs, and volunteers are feeling more frail than normal.

The Clubs have started even more successfully than normal, as registrations are higher and there is a closer knit feel to the groups. We're looking forward to taking the groups away on camps to bond further and take them away from the constant aftershocks. Youth leaders continue to do some mentoring, formally and informally and it's this one-on-one support which is highly valued at this time. We're also hoping to reward volunteers for their dedication in a year of stress.

Other regular events included the Thomson Park Skate Jam which we helped run in partnership with Cheap Skates and Christchurch City Council. Our youth leaders and volunteers helped with security, hiring the equipment, surveys and interacting with the young people. Approx 500 people turned out on the day as the community celebrated a return to normality post EQ.





2011 clubs


Youth Alive Trust
New Brighton, Christchurch

Cheeky Monkeys

Years 1 - 4
Starts Wed 6th April

Gwenda, Lorraine and their team run this weekly club full of fun activities, games, arts & crafts, trips out and yummy afternoon tea! Only \$10 a term.

Wednesdays
3:00pm - 4:45pm




WAVE

Years 5 - 6
Starts Mon 4th April

Sophie, James and their team run this weekly club with wild and wacky activities, games & trips out. Only \$20 a term.

Mondays
4.30pm - 6:00pm




ROCK SOLID

Years 7 - 8
Starts Fri 8th April

Rob, Amber and their team run this weekly club with crazy & zany challenges, games, trips out and camps! Only \$20 a term.

Fridays
4:30pm - 6:00pm




Sodium **Youth Cafe**

Years 9 - 13
Starts Fri 8th April

Matt and his team run a variety of chilled out Café Nights, Live Bands, Dance Parties, Van Trips and the usual food, drink, basketball, pool, air hockey, PS3, table tennis, Wii's, & more. Gold coin entry.

Fridays
7:00pm - 9:30pm



Youth Alive Trust has been running childrens and youth programmes in New Brighton since 1989. All our clubs are ran by staff and volunteers at our community hub, the newly named "Grace Vineyard Beach Campus", 111 Seaview Rd, New Brighton and involve some Christian Content. For more information or a flyer, pop in for chat, phone 3885459 or email: office@yat.org.nz

I HEART New Brighton

Over 1000 people turned up to Thomson Park last Saturday for a community event which shouts out "I Heart New Brighton". Local community groups used earthquake response funding from NZCT to bring out the locals, raise community spirit, and celebrate what it is to live in New Brighton. Entertained by local bands NiuSeiLAH and the reformed Smoking Jacket, families took part in Tiddlers races, face painting, circus tricks, bouncy castles, skating, and enjoyed the park facilities while eating free sausages, candy floss and chocolate! "We couldn't have asked for a better day" said James Ridpath, Team Leader of Youth Alive Trust, one of the organisers. "It was cancelled last weekend due to the bad weather, and to have a scorcher of a day just brought the people out in droves! This was a chance to raise community spirits and tell the world we're proud to live and work in New Brighton and we're going to come through these difficult times even stronger".



Marcus Puentener, from New Brighton Project was stoked by how everything worked out, "It started when Belfast Community Trust wanted to do something for the eastside of Christchurch, and after a few emails and a couple of meetings with our key local partners, we managed to pull off a day to remember. We can't take credit for the weather, but if funding permits, we hope to run a 'I heart New Brighton' event next year too". T-Shirts with the events name deemed very popular and can still be ordered from New Brighton Project. Big Thanks to the conglomerate of partners and organisers who made the day happen: New Brighton Project, Youth Alive Trust, Christchurch City Council, Belfast Community Network, Tiddlers Multisport, NZCT, Youthtown, Skate School, Flying Kiwi Circus, 91ZM and all those who turned up to make it a day to remember! See video at:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n8kr9HDCxAk>



Break from the Quake - Auckland

A HUGE Thanks to Youthtown Auckland, Youthtown Christchurch and their sponsors for organising the recent Break from the Quake for teenagers from Christchurch. We were privileged to take 86 young people who were connected to our clubs and programmes to camp Mota Moana, and were treated to an all expenses action packed camp + 8 of our leaders! We visited the Sky Tower, Eden Park, Rainbows End, Auckland Zoo, Motat, Zeal, The Viaduct and had a days worth of outdoor water activities! Everyone had an amazing time! The memories for the young people will last a lifetime and it will give them many positive memories from 2011. It was tiring for the leaders, but worth it to see the smiles on the faces of the young people. See the Youth Alive Trust website for the link to watch the highlights video for the whole week – made by us and with just our young people!

FRIDAY OCTOBER 19 2011



Minister for the Rugby World Cup Murray McCully with, from left, Georgia Dickson, Laura Dickson, Courtney Barr, Zac West, Emma Fitzgerald and Shavaughn Polglase.

More Canterbury students take quake-break

AROUND 250 Canterbury students have descended on Auckland this week for the second round of 'Break from the Quake' camps.

Not-for-profit organization Youthtown had originally arranged for more than 500 children aged 10-18 to escape the city over the July school holidays for camps in the North Island.

However, inclement weather in both Christchurch and Auckland caused the cancellation of flights and postponement of the second week of camps until October.

Youthtown chief executive, Keith Thorpe

said a great deal of work and research had gone into setting up the camps.

"We are delighted to deliver the second week of camps for the children and youth of Christchurch who have experienced a tough year at the hands of Mother Nature and deserve a break."

The young Cantabrians are split between three locations in Auckland, Hunua and Huntly.

On Monday, Auckland campers were given a tour of the newly installed Maori Waka at the Viaduct followed by a live, personalised

performance from the Topp Twins at The Cloud and entry to the giant rugby ball on Queen's Wharf.

Campers in Hunua and Huntley have been taking part in a variety of activities such as a high ropes course, a disco and a Frisbee golf day.

All three groups will take a trip to Rainbow's End in Auckland.

The camps are free of charge, with all costs, including airfares, travel, food, accommodation and activities covered by Youthtown and other sponsors and supporters.

New Brighton Library Holiday Activities

Our youthworkers started working at New Brighton just on weekends over 5 years ago for extra support. We were then asked to work everyday after school too, and the security guard was ditched! After the February earthquake, there were a lack of public buildings young people could take part in recreational activities, especially local swimming pools, including QE2. The Council approached us and asked if we had the time and resources to run activities in the school holidays. We didn't have the resources to run a formal childcare programme, but we were able to run daily activities that anyone could join in. This happened for both weeks in the July and October Holidays, and 3 days per week throughout the summer holidays.

The Library is keen to see these activities continue, as they have given feedback that it engages young people in social and sport activities, when they're often only interested in playing on the computers. They also agreed that there were less conflicts among the young people when the activities were an option and it was encouraging more people of all ages to visit the library.

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 2 2011

MAINLAND PRESS

7

Youth workers transform New Brighton library

Gina McKenzie

AN innovative project designed to turn New Brighton Library into a youth destination has become a model for other libraries to follow.

Over the past two years youth workers from the Youth Alive Trust (YAT) have been running a fun informal afterschool programme for students.

"Before the programme started

there were security guards at the entrance of the library and the atmosphere was quite different.

"We've noticed a very positive improvement and the library has become a community hub where younger people can feel comfortable," Youth Alive worker Nicole Reddington said.

Ms. Reddington said between 20 and 30 students visit the

library daily for the programme which operates from 3pm - 6pm each day.

"It's not a structured programme but a way of relating to them and enjoying activities together.

"Some of them don't have anywhere else to go and this is a safe place for them.

"We get to know them well and if there are any issues we know

how to deal with them."

New Brighton Library team leader Kate Ogden said having youth workers in the library has been extremely helpful.

"We are now better at handling difficult situations and the environment has definitely improved."

Youth Alive Trust team leader James Ridpath said other libraries are considering adopting the programme.

"When the new city library is built they will offer a similar model to what we're doing here.

"The idea is to make libraries friendly and welcoming to youth."



Library fun: New Brighton library has become a fun after school destination for students. Youth Alive Trust worker Gemma Creek plays cards with Jayden Thompson, 12, Jayden Wall, 12, Kianna Austen, 12, Anatia Bennett, 11 and Moana MacDonald, 11

Photo: Gina McKenzie

NEW BRIGHTON LIBRARY HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES

AMAZING RACE **Free!**

**10th-21st OCTOBER
Monday-Friday
2PM START**

Monday 10 Oct	Martial Arts
Tuesday 11 Oct	Juggling
Wednesday 12 Oct	Olympics Day
Thursday 13 Oct	Capture the Flag (or Plasticine)
Friday 14 Oct	Gaming Day
Monday 17 Oct	Giant Day
Tuesday 18 Oct	Jewellery Making
Wednesday 19 Oct	Amazing Race
Thursday 20 Oct	Chalk Art
Friday 21 Oct	Zumba

YOUTH ALIVE **CHRISTCHURCH CITY COUNCIL**

Central New Brighton Extra School Support



Particularly since the February Earthquakes and our activities on their school fields, we became more and more involved in the schools activities. We worked in partnership with the church to provide free Emergency Care Packs for all the families in the school. Money was used from other donors, and we were just helping to distribute and organise. We took on another sports team, which included weekly coaching, and a competition at Hagley Park. We fundraised on their behalf for new sports clothing and equipment – donated from an Australian football trust wanting to support the post EQ activities. We also received \$2,500 from the NZ Football Foundation for goalposts, which the school has never had. We finished the year with a game against the local Police (final score 5 – 5) and the senior team qualified for the first time for a Canterbury Tournament. We were active in matching the Salvation Army support worker to the school and also working with them for a couple of events. We organised a Dodge Ball tournament, took a Gladiator Inflatable into the school at lunch and were active in supporting the senior students on a 1 on 1 basis when needed, including school camp. We also organised a day trip for the whole school and found funding from Variety to take them to Willowbank Wildlife Park and to see a special Preview Screening of Smurfs. At the end of year presentation, they awarded Youth Alive Trust with a Community Cup – the first year it's been awarded.

Free North Island Family Holidays



We were asked to help find upto 40 people from local families who were in desperate need of a family break. The organisers were providing the holiday to the North Island completely free of charge but wanted our help to find the right people. We publicised the opportunity locally, filtered appropriate candidates and submitted them to the organisers. They are taking the families in January 2012!

Free Family Holidays!!! We have been given the opportunity to nominate 6 local families for holidays in the North Island in the summer break! 6 families will experience a summer beach holiday at Camp Anderson in Masterton from 23rd – 30th January. An opportunity for upto 10 family members to take part in activities like surfing, quad bikes, paintball, fishing or just relaxing by the beach. Flights, food and activities are all paid for, and would suit families with children between ages 6 – 14. If you'd like to be considered or know someone you'd like to nominate, write a one paragraph explanation why they deserve a break, and email it too: office@yat.org.nz or drop it into the Beach Campus at 111 Seaview Road, New Brighton.

Epic Dance Party

Some of the young people we have contact with through our clubs, schools work and library work had mentioned to us that their school halls were damaged and they were missing out on school discos this year. We had the idea to organise a big Dance Party for all the Year 7 & 8's from the local schools and bring them all together. We invited 7 different schools and it worked in partnership with Blue Light at a neutral venue. It went down so well we had calls for EPIC Dance Parties every week. It will become at least an annual event.



Last updated 16:11 21/11/2011

Ending the year on a high

Young people enjoy organised fun

By ANNA PRICE



Courtney Stothers and Kate Harrington
of Freeville Primary School

An epic dance party in the eastern suburbs fairly rocked when more than 120 young people from seven local schools turned up at the North New Brighton War Memorial Hall on Saturday.

The event was run by Youth Alive Trust in partnership with Blue Light.

Youth leader and an organiser Amber Henderson said 'the vision was to see young people get together and finish the year on a high.

A number of the local schools had lost their halls in the quakes and missed out on their school discos.

"It was a chance to pull them all together," Ms Henderson said.

"EPIC sounded like a cool name, then we realised it had meaning 'Eastside Primary Intermediates Combined'. It's been such a success, it will become an annual event, and we'll also be looking for other events that can bring all the local young people together on a big scale".

Pupils from North New Brighton, South New Brighton, and Central New Brighton Primaries, Freeville Primary, New Brighton Catholic, Wainoni and Parkview Primary Schools had themselves a ball.

