

Media Release

Choice Christchurch - FREE summer events near you

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A raft of free free neighbourhood picnics and pop-up movie screenings have been put together to help Christchurch residents enjoy summer in the city, and to hopefully take a break from the ongoing post-quake issues the city is facing.

Event details:

- [Choice Christchurch Facebook page](#)
- [Picnic schedule: 1 - 15 January 2012](#)
- [Moonlight movies schedule: 1 - 15 January 2012](#)

The Christchurch City Council already has an extensive and exciting programme of events planned, including the Treetech New Year's Eve in the Square, ASB Classical Sparks, Anthony Harper Lawyers Summer Theatre and Tip Top Kite Day.

And to support that programme, but on a smaller, more localised scale, the Canterbury Earthquake Recovery Authority has helped co-ordinate a series of free neighbourhood picnics and pop-up movie screenings.

The picnics will be held on parks and reserves in different suburbs including Aranui, Brooklands, Dallington and Bromley, every day from January 1 to 15.

The two-hour picnics will feature everything from the quintessential lolly scramble, to bouncy castles and old-fashioned egg-and-spoon and sack races.

After dark, inflatable movie screens will appear in parks across the Eastern Suburbs and feature some of New Zealand's best feature films from Under the Mountain, to Boy.

The pop-up movie programme will run on Jan 1, then from Jan 4 to 15. People are encouraged to bring a cushion, sit back and enjoy the open-air experience.

Earthquake Recovery Minister, Gerry Brownlee, and CERA chief executive Roger Sutton say the neighbourhood-level events aim to give people small, fun events that are close to home.

"We want it to be sort of informal, a bit of fun in the local park with a picnic, tug-of-war contests and face painting," says Mr Sutton.

"All you need to do is turn up, bring the kids and enjoy yourselves."

PLEASE NOTE: Specific details of times and places and information will be available on the Christchurch City Council events website, bethere.co.nz next week.