

Golden Bay local hubs: Possible activities where neighbours could work together

Learn • Share • Grow Together

A menu of activities to inspire possible new activities in your local area.

id	Task / Activity	Type	Rhythm	People Needed	Notes & How to Start
Food Production					
A1	Neighbourhood working bee: establish a new raised garden bed on shared land	Come together	Once-off / seasonal	4–8	<i>Bring tools, compost, untreated timber. Half-day project.</i>
A2	Collective seed-saving circle: harvest, dry, label and share seeds; order seeds together to save on postage and split orders	Come together	Annual (autumn)	3–10	<i>Rotate host household each year. Build a community seed library.</i>
A3	Group bulk purchase of seedlings or seed potatoes from a wholesaler	Shared resource	Seasonal (spring)	5–20 households	<i>Pool orders to get commercial quantities and prices.</i>
A4	Establish a community orchard on unused land (council, school, or private)	Come together	Once-off then ongoing	8–20	<i>Apply for Tasman District Council support. Plant diverse heritage varieties.</i>
A5	Intensive household garden specialist: grows one crop at scale for the group	Individual specialist	Ongoing	1 household	<i>E.g. one household grows all the garlic; another all the pumpkins.</i>
A6	Community mushroom growing setup: inoculate logs or straw together	Come together	Seasonal	3–6	<i>Oyster and shiitake on hardwood logs. Low cost, high yield.</i>
A7	Potato growing collective: one large plot, shared planting and harvest day	Come together	Annual (spring/autumn)	6–15	<i>A 200m² plot can produce 300–500kg. Share the harvest by labour contributed.</i>

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A8	Salad greens rotation: several households each growing one crop for swap	Household	Ongoing	3–8 households	<i>Each grows surplus of one thing (lettuce, rocket, spinach, herbs) and swaps weekly.</i>
A9	Group purchase of fruit trees for member households	Shared resource	Once-off	5–15 households	<i>Bulk nursery order reduces cost 30–50%. Plant at each household.</i>
A10	Communal composting system: three-bay setup at a central location	Come together	Build once, then ongoing	4–8 to build	<i>Feeds back into community gardens. Reduces household waste.</i>
A11	Annual community planting calendar: share what to plant each month locally	Come together	Annual	3–5	<i>Produce a printed one-page calendar based on local experience.</i>
A12	Bee hive collective: one or two members keep hives on behalf of the group	Individual specialist	Ongoing	1–2 beekeepers	<i>Share honey with hub members. Beekeeping courses available in Nelson.</i>
A13	Sprout and microgreens specialist: supplies fresh greens year-round	Individual specialist	Weekly	1 household	<i>Virtually no land needed. Sunflower, pea, broccoli, radish sprouts.</i>
Food Processing					
B1	Cheesemaker: one person invests in equipment and makes soft and hard cheese for the hub	Individual specialist	Fortnightly–monthly	1 person	<i>Shared cost of equipment possible. Hard cheese takes 2–6 months to age.</i>
B2	Butter maker: churns and stores butter, especially from seasonal milk surplus	Individual specialist	Weekly during dairy season	1 person	<i>Can work with a local dairy farm for surplus milk.</i>
B3	Group preserving day: jam, chutney, pickles, tomato sauce	Come together	Seasonal (summer/autumn)	4–12	<i>Host rotates. Everyone brings produce; everyone leaves with jars.</i>

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B4	Bread baking specialist: bakes weekly for hub members in exchange for other goods	Individual specialist	Weekly	1–2 bakers	<i>Sourdough loaves, crackers, flatbreads. One baker can supply 8–12 households.</i>
B5	Shared dehydrator for drying fruit, vegetables, and herbs	Shared resource	Seasonal	Hub	<i>A commercial dehydrator (\$300–600) shared among households. Roster system.</i>
B6	Community cider or fruit pressing day: process the apple glut together	Come together	Annual (late summer/autumn)	6–20	<i>Hire or build a fruit press. Makes juice, cider, vinegar, dried fruit.</i>
B7	Fermentation specialist: makes kimchi, sauerkraut, kefir, kombucha for the group	Individual specialist	Ongoing	1–2 people	<i>Fermented foods are nutrient-dense and long-lasting. Very low cost.</i>
B8	Shared sausage-making and meat-processing day after an animal is killed	Come together	As needed / seasonal	4–8	<i>After a pig or deer: process together, share the work and the meat.</i>
B9	Collective bulk flour purchase: bag together, store and distribute	Shared resource	Every 1–2 months	5–15 households	<i>25kg bags from a Christchurch or Nelson wholesaler. Significant saving on supermarket prices.</i>
B10	Smoke house: one household builds and operates for the group	Individual specialist	Seasonal	1 person	<i>Cold-smoke fish, meat, cheese. A simple smoke house can be built for under \$200.</i>
B11	Shared pressure canner for long-term vegetable and meat preservation	Shared resource	Seasonal	Hub	<i>A quality pressure canner enables safe preservation of low-acid foods.</i>
B12	Rendered lard and tallow specialist: processes fat from pigs and beef	Individual specialist	As needed	1 person	<i>Lard and tallow replace many expensive cooking fats and are shelf-stable for years.</i>

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B13	Food drying plant: set up equipment, skills and time to dry produce at larger scale	Shared resource	Seasonal	Hub	<i>Solar-powered site where people can drop off produce and pick up dried food.</i>
B14	Vinegar and condiment maker: apple cider vinegar, mustard, sauces	Individual specialist	Ongoing	1 person	<i>Uses seasonal fruit surplus. Replaces expensive supermarket staples.</i>
Infrastructure					
C1	Build an earth cellar: group working bee every three months at one household	Come together	Quarterly rotation	4–8 per build	<i>A simple earth cellar stores root vegetables, cheese and preserves for months without power.</i>
C2	Raised bed construction day: build four beds at one household in a morning	Come together	As needed / rotating	3–5	<i>Untreated timber, cardboard base, compost fill. Replicable at every household.</i>
C3	Shared greenhouse or polytunnel: erected on common land or at a central property	Shared resource	Once-off build	6–12	<i>Extends the growing season by 4–6 weeks at both ends. Tunnel houses from \$800–2,000.</i>
C4	Community drying shed: a simple solar-heated structure for drying produce	Come together	Once-off build	4–8	<i>North-facing, mesh-sided shed with roof. Dries herbs, fruit, vegetables without electricity.</i>
C5	Install rainwater tank at a household that lacks storage	Come together	As needed / rotating	3–5	<i>A 10,000L tank plus guttering. Group helps with installation; household covers material cost.</i>
C6	Group purchase of bulk food storage containers (buckets, Mylar bags, oxygen absorbers)	Shared resource	Once-off	5–20 households	<i>Proper storage extends shelf life of flour, oats, rice from months to 5–25 years.</i>
C7	Fencing working bee: help a member livestock-proof their property	Come together	As needed	3–6	<i>Particularly valuable for those new to animal keeping. Share tools and knowledge.</i>

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C8	Build a shared tool shed stocked with communal tools	Shared resource	Once-off then ongoing	Hub	<i>Rototiller, post-hole borer, cement mixer, chainsaw, ladder, scaffold. Roster and care agreement.</i>
C9	Communal firewood processing day: fell, split and stack at one household	Come together	Annual (summer)	4–8	<i>Rotating households. Those who can't contribute labour contribute other skills or food.</i>
C10	Construct a community notice board and produce exchange shelf at a central point	Come together	Once-off	2–4	<i>Physical space for surplus produce, skill offers, seed swaps and community news.</i>
C11	Establish a hub meeting place: a covered outdoor area at a central property or hall	Come together	Once-off	6–15	<i>A pergola, sheltered outdoor table, or upgraded hall space. Heart of the community.</i>
Energy & Water					
D1	Solar advisor: one person learns the basics and helps households assess and install solar	Individual specialist	Ongoing	1 person	<i>Basic off-grid or grid-tied systems. Significant long-term fuel savings.</i>
D2	Shared generator: collectively owned and maintained for emergencies	Shared resource	Emergency use	Hub	<i>A 3–5kW generator (\$1,000–2,000) shared among 5–10 households. Roster for maintenance.</i>
D3	Water system audit: identify and fix leaks, improve storage at member households	Come together	As needed	2–3	<i>A knowledgeable member helps others assess their water situation.</i>
D4	Gravity-fed irrigation system: design and install a simple drip system for a garden	Come together	Once-off per household	2–4	<i>Uses gravity from a tank above the garden. No pump, no power, no ongoing cost.</i>
D5	Wood gas or biogas experimenter: one person explores alternatives and shares findings	Individual specialist	Ongoing	1 person	<i>Biogas from food scraps; wood gas for small engines. Learning shared with the group.</i>

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D6	Small hydro or wind assessment: identify households with viable micro-generation potential	Come together	Once-off	2–3	<i>Even a small creek can run a micro-hydro system. Assessment costs little.</i>
D7	Insulation working bee: help a poorly-insulated household cut their heating needs	Come together	As needed / rotating	3–5	<i>Under-floor and ceiling insulation can halve heating bills. Share the labour.</i>
D8	Shared rocket stove or haybox cooker: build several for group members to trial	Come together	Workshop session	4–8	<i>Rocket stoves use 80% less wood than an open fire. Haybox cookers use no fuel.</i>
Skills & Knowledge					
E1	Monthly skill workshop: one community member teaches the group a practical skill	Come together	Monthly	5–25	<i>Following the Practical Living Series model. Host rotates. Document every session.</i>
E2	First aid refresher: one trained person runs a session for the group annually	Come together	Annual	5–20	<i>CPR, wound care, fractures, burns, shock. Invaluable for a remote community.</i>
E3	Medicinal plant walk and garden: learn local and garden plants for basic medicine	Come together	Seasonal (spring/summer)	4–15	<i>Plantain, yarrow, calendula, elderberry, kawakawa — all grow locally.</i>
E4	Foraging walk: learn to identify edible and useful wild plants in the valley	Come together	Seasonal	4–20	<i>Guided by a knowledgeable local. Mushrooms, greens, berries, bark.</i>
E5	Traditional skills library: document and record the knowledge held by older residents	Come together	Ongoing	2–4 recorders	<i>Interview, photograph, and write up what longtime valley residents know.</i>
E6	Children's gardening programme: a regular slot where children work in the garden	Come together	Weekly or fortnightly	1–2 adults + children	<i>At Bainham Hall garden or rotating household. Makes growing a normal part of childhood.</i>

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E7	Hub skills register: a living document of who knows what in the community	Come together	Annual update	1 coordinator	<i>Helps people find the right person when they need help or want to learn.</i>
E8	Natural building workshop: cob, adobe, lime plaster for walls and floors	Come together	Once-off workshop	6–15	<i>Low-cost materials, beautiful results. Could be used for community shelter or cellar.</i>
E9	Spinning, weaving or natural fibre workshop: use local wool or flax	Come together	Seasonal workshop	3–12	<i>Basic hand-spinning and weaving. Practical and meditative.</i>
E10	Map-making: create a detailed local resource map (water, food, skills, hazards)	Come together	Once-off then updated	3–8	<i>A physical and digital map of what exists in the valley. Essential for preparedness.</i>
Repair & Making					
F1	Repair café: one session per quarter where fixers help others mend broken things	Come together	Quarterly	3–8 fixers	<i>Clothes, tools, appliances, furniture. Skills: sewing, electronics, sharpening, woodwork.</i>
F2	Tool sharpening and maintenance day: bring your tools, learn to care for them	Come together	Annual or bi-annual	2–4	<i>Knives, chisels, saw blades, shears. A sharp tool is a safe and productive tool.</i>
F3	Sewing and clothing repair circle: mend, alter, and repurpose clothes together	Come together	Monthly	3–10	<i>Reduce waste, extend the life of what we own. Swap spare fabric and notions.</i>
F4	Shared welding and metalwork: one member has the gear and helps others with metal projects	Individual specialist	On request	1 person	<i>Enormously useful on farms and homesteads. Saves significant cost.</i>
F5	Candle and soap making: use local tallow, beeswax and herbs	Come together	Annual workshop	4–12	<i>Practical, beautiful, and a good use of animal fats. Swap or gift the output.</i>

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F6	Basketry and weaving from local materials: flax, willow, harakeke	Come together	Workshop series	3–10	Practical storage and a living connection to traditional craft.
F7	Charcoal making: a kiln for making charcoal from scrub and prunings	Come together	Seasonal	3–6	Charcoal for biochar (soil improvement) and as fuel. Use waste wood.
F8	Shared sewing machine and overlocker available to hub members	Shared resource	Ongoing	Hub	Kept at a central location with a simple booking system.
F9	Woodworking skills: one member helps others with basic joinery, shelving, and furniture	Individual specialist	On request	1 person	Builds community capacity for construction and repair without professional cost.
Animal Husbandry					
G1	Shared pig: one or two households raise a pig on food scraps, split the meat at the end	Shared resource	6–9 months	2–3 households	A pig converts food waste into high-quality protein. Split the raising cost and the meat.
G2	Chicken collective: shared flock for eggs, with rotating care responsibilities	Shared resource	Ongoing	3–5 households	Shared care means no one household bears full responsibility. Eggs shared by contribution.
G3	Hunting coordination: dedicated hunters share wild venison and pork with hub members	Individual specialist	Seasonal / ongoing	1–3 hunters	Deer and feral pigs are abundant. A good hunter can supply significant protein to the hub.
G4	Animal care network: shared animal-sitting when members travel	Come together	As needed	Hub network	Reduces barrier to keeping animals. Everyone covers everyone else.
G5	Shared dairy animal: one household keeps a house cow or goats, shares milk	Individual specialist	Ongoing	1 household + contributors	Raw milk, cream, butter, cheese. Sharers contribute feed costs or labour.

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G6	Rabbit collective: low-cost, fast-breeding, very efficient meat source	Shared resource	Ongoing	2–4 households	<i>Rabbits need little space and produce meat faster than any other livestock.</i>
G7	Slaughter and processing skill-share: learn humane killing and butchery together	Come together	As needed	3–6	<i>An invaluable skill for any serious food producer. Reduces reliance on abattoirs.</i>
Forest & Land					
H1	Firewood sharing: those with forest land supply firewood; others provide labour, food, or skills	Come together	Annual	4–10	<i>A cord of firewood from a member's property, split and stacked together.</i>
H2	Planting day: natives, fruit trees, and windbreaks on a member's property	Come together	Annual (autumn/winter)	5–15	<i>Improves land, provides habitat, and begins to produce food and materials.</i>
H3	Willow and harakeke cultivation for basketry and weaving material	Come together	Annual	3–8	<i>Willow grows fast and has dozens of uses. Harakeke is a taonga species.</i>
H4	Biochar production and soil improvement collective	Come together	Seasonal	3–6	<i>Charcoal from prunings dug into soil. Dramatically improves water retention and soil life.</i>
H5	Shared access to forest land for mushroom foraging, firewood, and timber	Shared resource	Ongoing	Hub members	<i>A member with forest land agrees to share access in exchange for help with maintenance.</i>
H6	Rongoā Māori plant learning and cultivation	Come together	Ongoing	3–10	<i>Connect with local Māori knowledge holders. Grow and care for useful native plants.</i>
Community & Care					
I1	Elderly support network: regular check-ins, help with heavy garden tasks, transport	Come together	Weekly / as needed	Hub network	<i>Older members often hold valuable skills. Support them to stay active and connected.</i>

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I2	Produce delivery to those who can't easily attend swaps or gatherings	Come together	Weekly / fortnightly	1–2 drivers	<i>A simple weekly drop-off of surplus food to housebound or transport-limited members.</i>
I3	New household welcome pack: seeds, a jar of preserves, an introduction to the hub	Come together	As needed	2–3 coordinators	<i>When a new family moves in, be the community that shows up first.</i>
I4	Mental health and connection circle: regular informal gathering just to talk	Come together	Monthly	4–12	<i>Rural isolation is real. A regular gathering with no agenda other than connection.</i>
I5	Childcare sharing: rotating care so parents can attend hub activities	Come together	Ongoing	3–6 families	<i>Makes participation accessible to young families.</i>
I6	Skills mentoring pairs: match someone wanting to learn with someone willing to teach	Come together	Ongoing	Coordinator	<i>One-to-one learning is often more effective than group workshops.</i>
I7	Community cookbook: document local recipes, seasons, and food stories	Come together	Once-off project	3–8	<i>A beautiful, lasting document of the community's food culture.</i>
I8	Inter-hub visits: groups from one locality visit another to share and be inspired	Come together	Quarterly	5–15 per hub	<i>Rotating venue. Bring food made in your community. Make it a feast.</i>
Emergency Preparedness					
J1	Shared emergency food store: collectively maintained 3-month supply of staples	Shared resource	Ongoing	Hub	<i>Pooled bulk purchase of flour, oats, rice, legumes, salt, sugar. Rotated regularly.</i>
J2	Communication plan: agree on how the hub will check in after a major event	Come together	Once-off then reviewed	Hub	<i>Who checks on whom? Where do we gather? Who has the radio?</i>

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J3	Radio or satellite communicator: one member trains and holds capability for the group	Individual specialist	Ongoing	1–2 people	<i>After an Alpine Fault event, cell networks will be down. Radio is essential.</i>
J4	Water purification knowledge and equipment: filters, boiling protocols, alternatives	Come together	Workshop	Hub	<i>After a major event, water supply cannot be assumed. Know your options.</i>
J5	First responder network: identify who has medical, structural, or emergency skills	Come together	Once-off then updated	Hub	<i>Who is a nurse? Who has a chainsaw and can clear a road? Who has a tractor?</i>
J6	Shared emergency medical kit: a well-stocked kit maintained by the hub	Shared resource	Ongoing	1–2 maintainers	<i>Beyond a basic first aid kit: sutures, splints, burn dressings, antibiotics (if possible).</i>
J7	Practice isolation drill: the hub lives on only local food for one week	Come together	Annual	Whole hub	<i>A fun challenge that reveals gaps and builds confidence. Celebrate what was achieved.</i>
J8	Document all hub members' skills, resources, and contact details in a physical booklet	Come together	Annual update	1–2 coordinators	<i>A printed booklet held by every household. Essential when digital systems are down.</i>