

Beyond Just Families – A new Way of Living that Connects People – Learning form Real World examples in New Zealand and Japan.

Date and time: Wed, Sep 23, 2026, 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM GMT+09:00

Bokashi, 1F, Nibankan Building, 1-7-1 Minami 2-jo Nishi, Chuo-ku, Sapporo, Japan

Event description

Book launch: New Zealand Earthsong Eco-Neighbourhood: How to Create a "Cohousing" Environment – A Story of a Community Nurtured in New Zealand – Japanese Edition (Original Book: *Cohousing for Life: A practical and personal story of Earthsong Eco-neighbourhood*)

In the suburbs of Auckland, New Zealand, there is an eco-community called Earthsong. This project, which started in 1995, incorporated permaculture principles and design methods, and construction began in 1999, resulting in a co-housing (communal living) complex with 32 households.

This time, we are inviting Robin Allison, who founded Earthsong, and Mie Kano, who has supported the creation of "collective houses" in Japan as a form of communal living. We will deliver "hints for creating an ideal lifestyle together with all residents" through a warm dialogue. First-time attendees are welcome!

■ **Part 1: Lecture by Robin Allison** 13:00-14:30 (with Japanese interpretation)

"Shaping the Ideal Lifestyle Together: How to Create Co-Housing Where Residents Take Center Stage"

Earthsong Eco-neighbourhood in New Zealand is a model co-housing project that has garnered global attention for its balance between a rich natural environment and a lifestyle where residents are loosely connected.

We welcome Robin Allison, who played a central role in its establishment and has lived there as a resident for 22 years. She will share how residents brought their thoughts and opinions together and collaborated to shape their ideal home from the very beginning of the project. She will clearly explain the "mechanism of mutual support" and the "story of building a heartfelt community" that can only be understood through practical experience.

■ Part 2: Crosstalk 14:30-16:00 Introduction of Japanese case studies & cross-talk (with Japanese interpretation)

"Tips for Living Comfortably in Your Own Way ~From the Field in New Zealand and Japan~"

Speakers: Robin Allison x Mie Kano (Collective Housing Co., Ltd., NPO)

In Japan, "collective housing" is a form of rental housing where people who want to live come together, discuss, and manage comfortable shared spaces and living spaces themselves. Collective Housing Co., Ltd. has supported many residents in realizing their "I want to live like this!" dreams.

In Part 2, practitioners from New Zealand and Japan will share their insights.

Even though countries and cultures differ, the important idea of "nurturing our own lives in a fun way" is the same. They will discuss methods for residents to remain positive and vibrant, and share their respective approaches, engaging with the audience.

This will be a very insightful discussion that will provide hints for thinking about your own "lifestyle" and "housing" in the future, and will be highly beneficial for those who want to put these ideas into practice. We hope many people will participate.

Address: 2nd Floor, Nibankan Building, 1-7-1 Minami 2-jo Nishi, Chuo-ku, Sapporo

[Capacity] 25 people

[Participation Fee] Please pay in cash at the venue on the day of the event.
Talk Event Participation: ¥1,000 (tax included)
Talk Event + Social Gathering Participation: ¥2,500 (tax included)
Talk Event + Book Purchase: ¥5,000 (tax included)
Talk Event + Social Gathering Participation + Book Purchase: ¥6,500 (tax included)
[Organizer] NZ Earthsong Co-Housing Seminar Organizing Committee @ Sapporo Team

[Cooperation] Atelier momo, NPO Collective Housing Co., Ltd.

[Book Sales] Books will be sold on the day for ¥4,180 (tax included).

■Robin Allison / Earthsong Founder

Architect. A founding member of Earthsong Eco-Neighbourhood and coordinator during construction. Also plays a leading role in housing that creates environmentally and socially sustainable communities. A leader in the co-housing movement, with extensive experience in community design and project management.

■ Mie Kano / Director and Coordinator, NPO Collective Housing Co., Ltd.

Having experience in user-participatory architectural design and citizen-participatory community development, she has been involved in research and awareness-raising activities for collective housing (ALCC) since 1994, and participated in the establishment of CHC in 2000. Currently, at CHC, she is engaged in business coordination and community management coordination, supporting the operation of existing houses and working on new projects.

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