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Second life for waste glass - Whanganui artist gives discarded glass a new story

BY DOUG DAVIDSON

For most people, an empty bottle is waste. For Whanganui artist Carmen Simmonds, it's the beginning of something new.

Through her project Re-storyz, Carmen has spent the past year exploring how discarded bottles can be transformed into materials for art, education and practical use.

Carmen, a cast glass and multimedia artist lives with her husband Glen on a lifestyle property in rural Brunswick, where sustainability is part of everyday life. Together they grow food, keep chickens, compost, and care for the native forest on their land.

"Re-storyz is a natural extension of how we think," Carmen says. "We're always asking how something can be used again instead of thrown away."

With support from the Whanganui District Council Waste Minimisation Fund, Carmen purchased an Expleco GL Sand glass crusher. Using bottles collected from the Whanganui Resource Recovery Centre, the machine transforms waste glass into crushed glass, which is then carefully graded by hand for use in a range of creative and practical applications.

The recycled glass has already been tested in cast glass, ceramics, jewelry, sculptural work and educational projects. Carmen has also created a collection of plant-inspired earrings from recycled glass, with a distinctive look that is quite different from conventional glass jewelry. "This project started with curiosity about what could happen if we looked at waste glass differently," she says. "There's huge creative potential in materials that would otherwise end up in landfill."

A major focus of the research has been understanding how recycled bottle glass behaves inside the kiln. Through ongoing testing, Carmen has explored how different bottle colours, glass types and firing temperatures affect compatibility, strength and stability in finished work. This is helping build practical knowledge for artists, educators and makers interested in working with recycled glass.

"Kiwis have always had that No. 8 wire mindset. Glass artists are no different," Carmen says. "We've been experimenting with recycled glass for years, especially students and artists who enjoy pushing materials in new directions. I'd love to see pre-crushed recycled glass become more accessible for creative and educational use."

While the first year has centred on creative applications, Carmen believes the possibilities extend well beyond the arts. Crushed recycled glass is already used in horticulture (as an reflective mulch, soil conditioner, drainage, weed and moisture control and sustainable alternative to natural sand or gravel), and in roading. Future testing will explore what might be possible here, including applications in gardening, agriculture and architecture.

The Waste Minimisation Fund supports local projects that reduce waste, extend the life of resources and contribute to a more circular, low-waste future for Whanganui. The project is a practical example of how that can happen at a local level.

As the research continues, Re-storyz is nearing completion of a purpose-built Whanganui studio that will host workshops and classes focused on recycled glass, creative reuse and sustainable making. Early workshops have already been well received, bringing people into the process and creating opportunities to explore the material for themselves.

For Carmen, the project is still evolving. Each new application brings another question, another test and another possibility for a material that would otherwise be discarded.

"Every bottle has already had one life," she says. "I'm interested in discovering what its next life could be."

More information is available at www.restoryz.com.



Carmen in Re-storyz studio

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Whanganui Osteopathy offers multi-disciplinary wellness hub at new premises

Whanganui Osteopathy has made the move to 31 Dublin Street, offering accessibility and plenty of parking for the new multidisciplinary wellness hub, home to four ACC registered osteopaths, a cranial-sacral therapist, a NLP practitioner, clinical Pilates and a rehab space and a weekly visiting medical herbalist/naturopath. They offer a collaborative, patient-centered model used to tailor bespoke treatment plans across disciplines – it's a unique offering for Whanganui.

The hub is the brainchild of owner Jonathan Paine who moved to Whanganui with his family from the UK about 25 years ago to continue practicing Osteopathy. Jonathan admits that offering a multidisciplinary service in a smaller city is more challenging than in the bigger centres, but he's committed to the town, saying, "I've done city life and Whanganui is a neat little community."

And the benefits of this multidisciplinary approach means more success for their clients.

"Having different disciplines, different skill sets, mean that we can step back a little bit and say, OK, what's going to work best for this patient? So having a bigger place and more practitioners is great. It's about the patient, not about us."

The team's focus is also on the 'whole person' and how an injury impacts a person's day-to-day life. Jonathan explains, "Say you have a knee issue that's been with you for a long time, how does that affect your lived experience? How does that affect your ability to function, say as a mother or as a worker? One's social life as well. And the psychology, chronic pain gets you down. Those are important considerations."

One of the tools on offer is NLP therapy that can help with the psychological impact of a chronic pain problem or overcoming an injury. The therapy may help identify patterns of self-talk, confidence, motivation, communication or decision-making, all behaviours that may add to the physical stress of the core problem at hand.

Clinical Pilates is designed for rehabilitation, pain reduction, and improving daily function. It targets specific weaknesses, corrects movement patterns, and supports recovery from injury or surgery.



The team at Whanganui Osteopathy from left: Imogen, Stacey, Jonathan, Belinda, Aidan, Deb. Inset: Erin, naturopath

CranioSacral Therapy, originally developed by an Osteopath, uses light touch to improve the central nervous system, assisting with a range of conditions, such as migraines, chronic neck pain and stress and tension related issues, to name just a few.

The additional services of medical herbalism and naturopathy create a well-rounded offering for clients, and a massage therapist will soon join the team as well.

For further information, or to make an appointment, contact:

Whanganui Osteopathy
31 Dublin Street
06 345 2232
Hours Mon-Thurs 8.00am – 6.00pm
Friday 8.00am -5.00pm
Sat & Sun closed

Whanganui Male Choir back in action

Following recent very good press coverage, the Choir found both a new Musical Director and Accompanist, plus some new Choristers, who, after a compacted schedule of rehearsals, were able to prepare and present a recent mid-winter concert, its 287th, to an appreciative audience who almost filled the Trinity Methodist Church in Wickstead Street. The choir is now busy preparing for its usual Christmas Concert plus a couple of other invitational special events.

Much of the credit for the successful mid-year concert can be sheeted home to the expertise of our new Director, Jamie Henare and to our young Accompanist, Philomena Gaines. Jamie has a Post-Graduate Diploma from the NZ school of Music, Wellington, with classical training and recognition, recently having taken the lead role in Amdram's Les Miserables and is in charge of Music at Cullinane College. Philomena is an Organist at St Anthony's Church, Gonville, studying Grade 8 Piano after having obtained recent choral experience with Schola Sacra.

Expert opinion advises that the Concert entitled "Sea Sky & Song" was very well received both technically and for the choice of songs. Of particular appeal were the unaccompanied pieces, where the harmonies were much more evident without the piano. The works ranged from classical through folk to pop, allowing easy engagement with the mixed-age audience.

The choir is still very happy to hear from potential new members. No audition is required, merely a need to have an interest in music and to enjoy learning and singing in a spirit of fellowship. If interested contact our President, Tony Ross on 027 611 5533.



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Whanganui Tennis Club serves up action for national 'Love Tennis' Day



Sam Buttars and Robert Scott

Whether you are a seasoned player looking to dust off your racket or someone who has never hit a ball in your life, this coming Sunday, September 13, is your perfect opportunity to get on the court.

The Whanganui Tennis Club, located at 3 Bassett Street (opposite Whanganui City College), is opening its gates from 10:00am to 2:00pm as part of the massive national promotion, 'Love Tennis'. More than 100 clubs across New Zealand are participating in the initiative, opening up tennis to local communities nationwide.

The open day is a fantastic chance for families to introduce children or grandchildren to racquet sports, including pickleball and squash. Visitors can explore the club's facilities, learn about available playing programmes, and take advantage of an exclusive, one-day-only half-price membership deal for those who sign up during the event.

A variety of fun activities, games, and sponsored prizes will be running throughout the day, with a BBQ happening to keep energy levels high.

The Whanganui Tennis Club boasts impressive modern infrastructure, including premium astro courts, high-efficiency LED lighting, professional coaching pathways, Club and competition days and a dedicated development officer to help the club and tennis grow in the region.

Organisers Robert Scott and Sam Buttars say the organisation is looking forward to welcoming fresh faces to the courts.

"The Club is in good heart with fantastic facilities," Scott said. "We cater for all ages and all abilities and see ourselves as a supportive family club."

The event has a strong track record of success. Last year's 'Love Tennis' drive was a major milestone for the club, welcoming 80 new members in a single day. Organisers are eager to build on that momentum this weekend, noting there is always room for more members in their growing community.

All equipment is provided, so residents only need to turn up in comfortable clothes and sports shoes to join the fun.



Volunteer Whanganui celebrates 25 years

Volunteer Whanganui recently celebrated 25 years of service and support in Whanganui with a high tea event at the Whanganui Function Centre.

The Volunteer Centre was opened on September 1, 2001, thanks to a grant from the Whanganui Community Foundation of $40,000 and a further $20,000 from the Department of Internal Affairs. Marion Dean was appointed its first manager. Two months later, there was an official launch attended by Prime Minister Helen Clark.

Over the years, there have been a number of developments, including Street Marches in 2005 and 2006 of organisations and their volunteers to celebrate Volunteer Awareness Week. A range of services were developed; a computer support and website development took place, and the Centre actively promoted and supported appreciation of volunteers.

This development has continued under the current manager Sandra Rickey, who was appointed in late 2013. As Volunteer Whanganui does not receive any financial support from local or central government, it is necessary to regularly make grant requests to a variety of organisations such as the Department of Internal Affairs, Lotteries, Whanganui Community Foundation and NZCT. An up-to-date database is available.

The organisation has grown significantly and now represents 102 organisations with 1544 active volunteers, up from only 169 in 2013. Volunteers apply for the volunteer roles that interest them and as Sandra points out, "some organisations such as Op shops and Meals on Wheels need heaps of volunteers."

There are good numbers of volunteers in each age range. They are age 15 to 19: 158; 20-29: 237; 30-39:196; 40-49:228; 50-59: 251 and 60+: 451.

It is important to provide recognition of volunteers, and Sandra in conjunction with the RCP and Mud Ducks organises a 'Volunteer of the Month' Award.

She also invites people in high profile roles in the community to be a volunteer for a day, working with one of the community organisations. This year, the RCP journalist spent time out with the Whanganui Community Patrol.

Volunteer Whanganui shares an office with MS, and Sandra assists MS with administrative responsibilities. She also volunteers with Meals on Wheels and for the Civil Defence Welfare team.

The role of volunteers helping out in the community is a very important one, and Volunteer Whanganui is very successful in being the vital matchmaker.



Sandra receiving a bouquet from the chair of Volunteer Whanganui Sandra Terewi.

Join the port cruise fundraiser for TS Calliope

T.S Calliope is the local Navy Cadet unit. Recruitment is for those aged 13 to 15, and you can stay on until you are 20. They meet every Wednesday evening from 6.45 to 9.15 during the school term at the Army headquarters in Maria Place Extension. It is seen as a Professional Youth Development programme with a focus on possible future recruitment into the Navy.

The aim of the programme is to develop self-disciplined, confident, and responsible young people through military-style leadership training. They engage in hands-on activities like sailing, powerboating, robotics, drone flying, first aid, firearm safety and community service.

They need to do a bit of fundraising to replace vital safety gear such as VHF radios and life jackets for the upcoming sailing season.



Aboard the Wairua at a previous port cruise

Sam Mordey, Managing Director of the Motor Vessel Wairua, is involved and says, "Being in a unique position to help as the owner of a successful maritime business, I hope to continue to contribute as well as bring other businesses on board to help continue sustainable growth of TS Calliope that has been driven by our dedicated and amazing officers."

So Sam has offered to run a cruise on the Wairua with all money raised going straight to the unit. The cruise will be one of his Port History Cruises which have been very popular in the past.

The cruise will run on Saturday 19 September departing opposite Pākaitore/ Moutoa Gardens at 4.30pm sharp. It will take 90 minutes, and Sam will provide the commentary.

There are 28 seats available, with tickets costing $60 for adults, $30 for a child or $150 for a family of four.

Book at info@motorvesselwairua.co.nz

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Loop linked again as work continues on Tongariro Northern Circuit



Construction continues on Oturere Hut, which will now open on 18 December Credit: DOC

The full Tongariro Northern Circuit will operate as a loop this summer, but setbacks in construction of the new Oturere Hut have delayed the hut's opening until mid-December.

Progress has been made in repairing structural damage on Mangatepopo Track, which was impacted by fires in late 2025, and the track is on course for a summer reopening.

Department of Conservation Principal Ranger Jenny Hayward says being able to open Mangatepopo Track in mid-December means visitors can complete a full circuit this season.

"Mangatepopo Track is a critical link between Whakapapa Village and Mangatepopo Hut, and without it the Tongariro Northern Circuit hasn't been a circuit."

Although progress has been made at the track, poor weather has prevented contractors flying materials in to Oturere, delaying construction on the much-anticipated new hut.

The hut and the campsite will now open for bookings from 18 December 2026. Visitors with affected bookings will be emailed directly next week by DOC and given the opportunity to change their booking or receive a full refund.

"We appreciate this is disappointing for those who had booked to stay in the brand-new hut, but unfortunately it has been unavoidable this time.

"On the bright side, when you do book the hut, you'll now be able to include it as part of the full Great Walk circuit."

The Tongariro Northern Circuit is a three or four-day hike through varied volcanic landscapes including parts of the Tongariro Alpine Crossing.

Jenny says there's also good news for the future of Mangatepopo Track.

"At this stage we're just working on replacing and repairing the fire-impacted structures, but we now have approval to do a complete overhaul of the track.

"It's going to be a complete refresh, with metalling resurfacing, new boardwalks, and a strong focus on futureproofing."

"People who've walked the Mangatepopo Track in recent years will know it has not been in a condition we'd expect for a Great Walk. We're really looking forward to bringing it up to standard and getting even more people out naturing in Tongariro."

Bookings for Great Walks can be made through the DOC website.

u3a Learn, Laugh, Live | Whanganui

U3A Whanganui presents:

PREDATOR FREE WHANGANUI

Join us on **Friday, September 11** as Scotty Moore talks about the Predator Free Whanganui initiative - the work being done to protect our native wildlife and restore our local ecosystems.

Everyone welcome!
Come along and learn more about this important mahi happening right here in our community.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 11
10am - 11am
Room 2.15, UCOL,
Rutland Street



U3A lecture series talk - predator eradication

On Friday, 11 September, u3a Whanganui is hosting Scotty Moore, a well-known local Biodiversity Ecologist, to speak about his work experiences, particularly in relation to the restoration of native birdlife in our urban area through the eradication of predators including rats, mustelids, possums and feral cats.

The benefits of such eradication are that people will see positive changes in the economy, culture, wellbeing and recreation. People living in Miramar, Wellington have seen native bird detections skyrocket 91% since the eradication project started there. When working collectively with local community groups and iwi, it is possible to significantly reduce the impact of these predators.

Scotty is a freshwater and environmental coordinator based in New Zealand, working closely with regional bodies such as Horizons Regional Council and various conservation groups to protect and restore the country's waterways. His work spans practical land management advice, including guidance on native plant selection and soil retention techniques for farmers and landowners. He has been involved in a range of community-focused conservation efforts, from farm-based workshops to river hikoi partnerships with local iwi, reflecting a hands-on approach to environmental stewardship that bridges scientific expertise with grassroots collaboration.

This lecture will be held at 10.00am on Friday, 11 September, in Room 2.15 of UCOL, Rutland Street. Entrance is by Koha.

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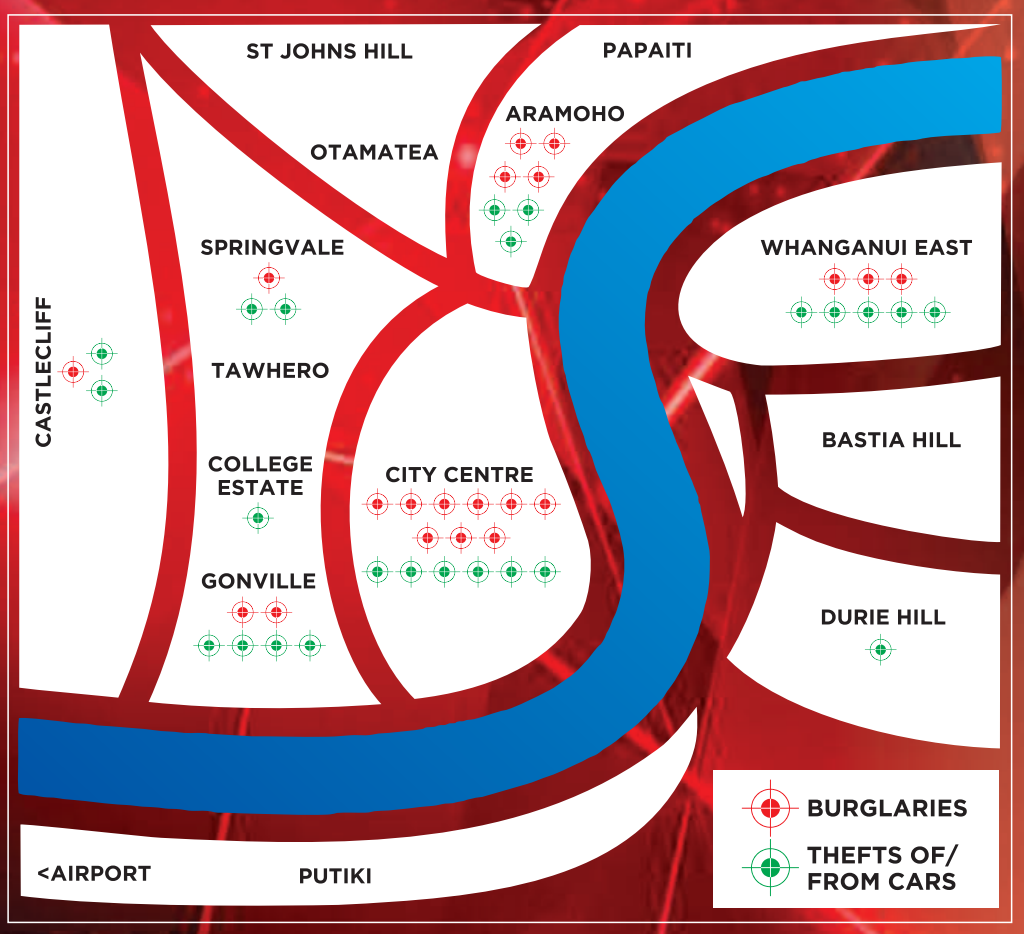

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CITY	Ridgway Street
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CITY	Campbell Street
CITY	Glasgow Street
CITY	Keith Street
CITY	Ingestre Street
CITY	Wilson Street
GONVILLE	Bennett Street
GONVILLE	Bignell Street
SPRINGVALE	Parsons Street
WHANGANUI EAST	Wakefield Street
WHANGANUI EAST	Matarawa Street
WHANGANUI EAST	Moana Street

Vehicle Crimes:

ARAMOHO	Paterson Street
ARAMOHO	Somme Parade
ARAMOHO	George Street
CASTLECLIFF	Laird Street
CASTLECLIFF	Manuka Street
CITY	Taupo Quay
CITY	Taupo Quay
CITY	Keith Street
CITY	Victoria Avenue
CITY	Saint Hill Street
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DURIE HILL	Forres Street
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GONVILLE	Gunn Street
GONVILLE	Puriri Street
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SPRINGVALE	London Street
WHANGANUI EAST	Burton Avenue
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DATA FROM AUGUST 23 - SEPT 6 ALL CONTENT SUPPLIED BY NEW ZEALAND POLICE

Whanganui East School brightens community with Crazy Hair and Daffodil Day celebrations



Whanganui East School combined creativity and community spirit to raise funds for the annual Cancer Society Daffodil Day.

Students and staff embraced a vibrant mix of coloured clothing and spectacular hair creations, turning the school grounds into a sea of bright colours and imaginative designs with intricate buns, elaborate plaits, and even dolls expertly woven directly into the students' hair. Staff participation included two teachers creatively transforming their hair into mini duck ponds, much to the delight of the students.

The special event succeeded in bringing joy to the classroom while supporting a cause that touches too many of our families in the region. Alongside the hair transformations, students channelled their artistic talents into creating Daffodil art, such as designing posters or badges to honour the iconic yellow flower that symbolises hope for all New Zealanders impacted by cancer.

The funds raised by the school come at a crucial time. In New Zealand, roughly 1 in 3 people will receive a cancer diagnosis in their lifetime, with dozens of Kiwis diagnosed every single day.

Public donations from Daffodil Day are essential to keeping the Cancer Society operating, helping fund specialist support, whānau transport and accommodation, research and education.

The exciting day concluded with a full school assembly, beautifully hosted by the school's new entrants and Year 1 classes. The assembly served as a double celebration, allowing the school to recognise its classroom high achievers alongside the proud "Mid Honors" students who have earned 300 Respect Ticks this year. It was a perfect, positive conclusion to a memorable day that showcased the very best of Whanganui East School's creativity, kindness, and community spirit.

Fifty new homes planned for Waiouru Military Camp



Waiouru Military Camp is the home of Lake Moawhango. Man made and extensive, Moawhango contains multiple islands. At the southern end you'll find a dam, which was built in 1979. Personnel use the lake for training, joint exercises with the Royal New Zealand Navy, as well as harnessing the substantial heights of the dam for rappelling training.

The New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) will sign a formal agreement with Ngāti Rangi, beginning the construction of 50 new homes at Waiouru Military Camp, on September 9.

This will be the first of this type of agreement between the NZDF and an iwi. The agreement has arisen as a result of the Treaty Settlement signed between Ngāti Rangi and the Crown in 2018. Ngāti Rangi and the New Zealand Defence Force have negotiated, under the terms of the Settlement legislation, to enable the transfer of land to Ngāti Rangi for the construction of houses.

The NZDF will be represented by Chief of Army Major General Rose King and Chief Financial Officer Bridget Marks. Also signing the agreement will be Chair of Te Tōtarahoe o Paerangi, Tomairangi Mareikura at Rongomaraeroa o ngā hau e whā (the New Zealand Army National Marae) at Waiouru.

The New Zealand Government earlier approved this stage of the Waiouru housing development, enabling the NZDF to begin construction of the homes as part of the Homes for Families programme and to honour commitments made under the settlement.

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Better Sleep Brighter Days

Nature Talk - Managing invasive species on the Pacific Islands

Invasive species and biosecurity failures are among the greatest threats to native biodiversity in the insular Pacific. They also affect agriculture and human health as well as increasing the vulnerability of Small Island Developing States to the impacts of climate change. Reducing the threats of invasive species is therefore essential to protecting biodiversity and strengthening climate resilience in these islands, just as it is in New Zealand.

Meeting this challenge is the subject of the next Nature Talks event, to be held in the Davis Lecture Theatre, Whanganui Regional Museum, on Tuesday 15 September, starting at 7:30 PM.

The speaker will be Dr Greg Sherley ONZM, formerly adviser on invasive species management and bird conservation to the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), and Pacific Regional Task Manager for the United Nations Environment Programme in Apia, Samoa. He will outline the scale of the challenges across a region covering roughly one-third of the world's surface and containing about 30,000 islands and numerous jurisdictions.



Two yellow mongooses and a feral cat, two highly destructive introduced predators on Hawai'i and other Pacific Islands, along with a non-native Moses-in-the-cradle lily, *Tradescantia spathacea*, just some of the many invasive species threatening biodiversity on these islands *Photo credit: Colin Ogle*

Dr Sherley helped establish the Pacific Regional Invasive Species Management Support Service (PRISMSS), hosted by SPREP, which, among many other tools, developed an overarching set of guidelines to managing invasive species, able to be used anywhere in the world.

In this talk, he will describe PRISMSS's core components: programme structure; interagency and country partnerships; and performance. His presentation concludes by examining the challenges this collaborative model faces, and the prospects for sustaining its work.

Managing invasive species and conserving biodiversity are also central concerns to many in New Zealand. Dr Sherley's talk provides an opportunity to see how these problems are being tackled elsewhere in the Pacific region, one that faces even greater budgetary constraints than we do, and which therefore relies heavily on community support and engagement. Are there ways we should be doing things differently or more cost-effectively, and how best can such initiatives be continued in the long-term, are questions we may want to consider in the discussion.

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Updates from Tarapuhi Bushy Park



Tīeke/North Island Saddleback bird

Audit dates

Two of the most important volunteer days are:

13 October - Audit Day (Deploy)

20 October - Audit Day (Collect)

These are the days when volunteers place bait and tracking cards into the tracking tunnels, and then return a week later to collect and assess them. "The results help us determine whether there have been any unwanted visitors or residents inside the sanctuary and provide valuable information about how well our predator fence and biosecurity systems are performing."

They're also an opportunity to explore some of the less frequently visited corners of Tarapuruhi Bushy Park, areas that many volunteers don't often get the chance to see.

Planting

A successful planting season has come to an end. There were challenges such as cold, wet and muddy days.

Bushy Park Trust

The Trust Board is currently looking for a few helping hands, particularly from volunteers with skills in accounting, bookkeeping or financial administration. It would require just a few hours each month.

Predator Fence Update

Work continues to maintain and strengthen the predator fence. Volunteers have helped by fence checking, patching repairs, building up dirt ramps, preparing materials and supporting contractors with the installation of new screws and washers.

Bird of the Year

The Bird of the Year voting has begun, and Tarapuruhi Bushy Park would love to see "our supporters get behind Tīeke/North Island Saddleback and help us bring home the title."

"It is a unique opportunity to shine a spotlight on Tarapuruhi Bushy Park and the conservation work taking place here every day."

Greater awareness can lead to greater support.

Booked for the Weekend

WHAKANUIA NGĀ KAITUHI O TE ROHE NEI.
CELEBRATING LOCAL AUTHORS

FRIDAY, 18 SEPTEMBER
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RSVP: Kat Schroyens
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Whanganui District Libraries
NGĀ WHARE PUKAPUKA O WHANGANUI

SATURDAY, 19 SEPTEMBER
Alexander Library | Te Rerenga Mai o Te Kauru

A POET'S LIFE | 10.00-11.00am

Whanganui writer Airini Beautrais is one of Aotearoa New Zealand's most celebrated contemporary writers. Her debut work of fiction, Bug Week, won the prestigious Jann Medlicott Acorn Prize for Fiction at the 2021 Ockham New Zealand Book Awards. Her latest poetry collection, Salt Quilt, is a lyrical evocation of places and events that are quintessential to the poet's past. Airini will reflect on her beginnings as a writer, her 20-year career so far, and what it means to be a creative in today's world.

OPEN MINDS | 11.30am-12.30pm

Whanganui authors read from their works in progress, featuring Marie Greenbank, who writes about her communal life on the Ahu Ahu Ohu; Frances Rookes, who is finalising her memoir; Graeme Foster, author of many works, including his latest, It's a Good Life Really, a fictional memoir; and Paul Brooks, bookseller and writer of deft humour.

A WEALTH OF EXPERIENCE | 1.30-2.30pm

Author Carmel Hurdle has visited a number of countries in Africa since 2013 as a volunteer for Open Home Foundation International, facilitating courses on the care and protection of children and helping to develop sustainable projects. She will talk about her work and read one of the many stories she has written about her experiences. These stories are currently being recorded for a podcast.

ART & THE ENVIRONMENT | 3.00-4.00pm

Desmond Bovey, winner of The Mountain Film and Book Heritage Award, talks with Jane Westaway about his career in environmental art in France and New Zealand. His book, Tongariro National Park: An Artist's Field Guide, is a treasure and a beautiful testimony to Desmond's talent as both an artist and a writer.

SUNDAY, 20 SEPTEMBER
Alexander Library | Te Rerenga Mai o Te Kauru

MURDER SHE WROTE | 10.00-11.00am

Joan Rosier-Jones discusses her book, The Murder of Chow Yat, with Maryanne Ewing, Co-Chair of the Whanganui Regional Heritage Trust. The book explores the unsolved murder of Chow Yat, a crime that took place in Whanganui in 1922.

BEHIND THE SCENES | 11.30am-12.30pm

Playwrights and directors Shona Wilson and Polly Pyefinch discuss what it takes to put a play on stage - from writing the script through the directing process to that nerve-wracking opening night.

THE JOY OF GARDENING | 1.30-2.30pm

Phil Thomsen and Terry Dowdeswell are both ardent gardeners. Phil is the author of many gardening books. His latest, Down-to-Earth, was published last year. He says it has never been more important to be an "average home gardener". Terry is well known in Whanganui as both the "Delphinium Man" and the long-time Chair of the Bason Botanic Gardens Trust. He will read a snippet from his memoir, which is well underway, before chatting with Phil. You might just discover your green fingers at this event.

TELLING YOUR OWN TRUTH | 3.00-4.00pm

Valerie Cowan and Albert Sword in conversation with Paul Brooks. It has been said that writing a memoir is a way of telling your own truth. In this session, memoirist Valerie Cowan will discuss her book, The Private Life of a Private's Wife, taking us through her journey into army life in Singapore. Travelling there on an air force plane with a toddler and a baby proves to be the beginning of a grand adventure. My Life as an Opera, Albert Sword's memoir, is also full of adventure, beginning with his journey as a six-year-old from Scotland to faraway New Zealand. Paul Brooks, proprietor of Brooks Books, will draw out the stories and truths behind these two memoirs.

Interested in some free foreign language books?



Some of the many boxes of foreign language books available for free

Whanganui Rotary Club has been given a range of foreign language books but as it is moving out of it book storage space on 21 September, it is wanting to give them away to anyone in the community who would appreciate them. There are 63 boxes full of them.

President Kate Smith says "most of them are in German and French, but there are a few in Dutch and also Japanese. There are more non-fiction than fiction, with some non-fiction ones focusing on horses, and beautiful ones at that."

The Club is currently operating a pop-up book shop at 137A Victoria Ave and many if not most of the books coming out of storage will probably be placed in the shop.

The shop, which is opposite the pedestrian crossing, along from the intersection with Guyton Street, is open from 10am to 4pm Tuesday to Friday and from 10am to 3pm on Saturday. It is getting a steady flow of customers, "enough to pay the rent." Kate is hopeful for increasing custom with spring and summer coming on. The rent is for three months by three months.

If you are interested in checking out these books, contact Kate on 029 242 2440.

Rivercity Pickleball - a new home and a pathway for everyone



Rivercity Pickleball is entering a new chapter, with six newly marked outdoor courts at **Whanganui Tennis Club, 3 Bassett Street**, a growing youth focus and a clear Member Journey for players at every stage.

Tennis Courts 10, 11 and 12 have been marked to provide **six outdoor pickleball courts**, creating RCP's new outdoor **Home of Pickleball**. New nets and equipment are arriving this week.

RCP has been welcomed by **Whanganui Tennis Club and Whanganui Squash Club**, bringing three sports together at Bassett Street. The club thanks both clubs, Four Regions Trust and Whanganui Community Foundation for their support.

RCP President **Joy Walden** says the development is an exciting milestone.

"We're really excited to get outside and start playing at our new Home of Pickleball. Having six outdoor courts gives us another option for our members and creates opportunities for us to continue growing the sport in Whanganui."

"We are extremely grateful to Whanganui Tennis Club, Four Regions Trust, and Whanganui Community Foundation for their help and assistance. We're looking forward to being part of a thriving sporting hub at Bassett Street."

Indoor court hire remains important, but rising costs and venue availability mean the club needs more options. The Home of Pickleball will increase outdoor play, while RCP maintains its indoor programme at Jubilee.

While many RCP members are aged 50-plus, growing the next generation is a focus. The club is developing opportunities for **junior and youth players**, including a recent "Give it a Go" session at Jubilee Stadium.

RCP wants more tamariki and rangatahi to discover pickleball, build skills and become future competitors, coaches, volunteers and leaders.

Its new **RCP Member Journey** captures that philosophy through the message:

"Your journey. Your Pace. Your Club."

The journey begins with introductory sessions before members choose to develop skills, compete, volunteer, coach or lead.

Some members want activity, fun and connection. Others want to improve, compete, support newcomers, coach or contribute to the club's future. There is no expectation that everyone follows the same pathway or pace.

Supporting that journey also means clearer player **development pathways and coach training**. A strong club is built by players, volunteers and people who help others develop.

The new Home of Pickleball gives RCP a base to grow and create a community where new, social, competitive and volunteering members can all find their place.

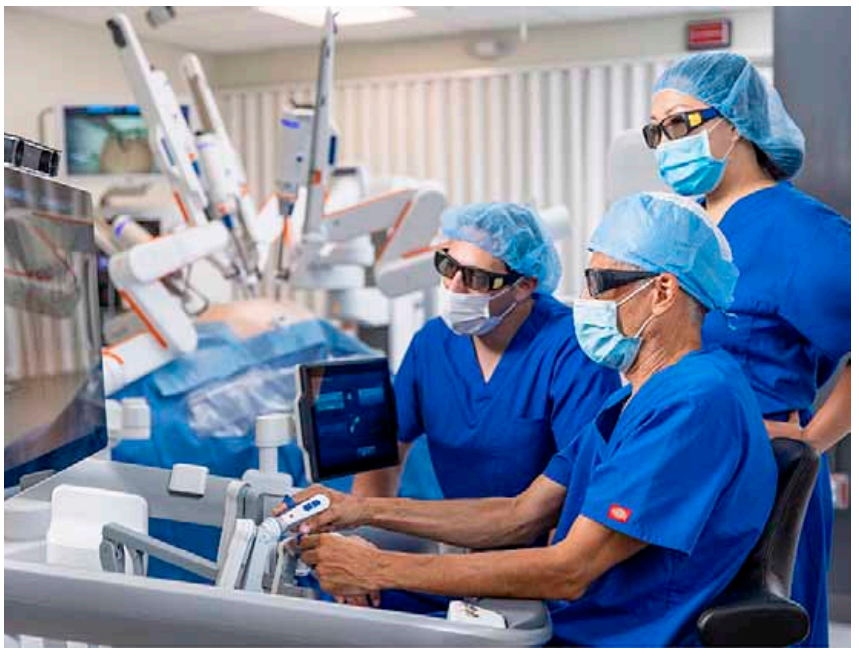
Millions raised in months, thanks to community push for regional surgical robot

The Palmerston North Hospital Foundation is celebrating, with its campaign to fund a publicly-owned surgical robot successful in only six months.

A surgical robot will mean safer surgeries and better cancer care for the central North Island. More than 580,000 people are covered by the hospital's cancer services, including patients from Palmerston North, Manawatū, Horowhenua, and Tararua, but also Ōtaki, Whanganui, Wairarapa, Taranaki, and Hawke s Bay.

Launched in late February, the Foundation s goal to raise the $2.5 million + GST needed ($2.875M) was an ambitious one, but Foundation Chair Brendan Duffy says this success is a moment for the whole community to be proud of.

"This is a community achievement, plain and simple. It's the result of many caring people and organisations, from incredibly generous local families through to grants, community events and sunflower fundraisers. Every single dollar got us here, and we're so grateful to everyone who took part. This is what our region can do when it decides something matters."



A surgical robot would be operated by skilled surgeons, helping make surgery safer and patients recovery faster.

Among those helping turn the surgical robot from a goal into a reality are Christine and Paul Frecklington, farmers; Vivienne and Gerard Gillespie; and Sir Pat Higgins, co-founder of Ezibuy.

With the funding secured, Health NZ MidCentral is now underway with the formal procurement process. It has confirmed that the surgical robot will be a permanent installation at Palmerston North Regional Hospital.

As this fundraising project finished much earlier than expected, Duffy says the Foundation is already working with the Hospital s clinical leadership to review the next projects that will best benefit the community. One of these is the Friends of the Emergency Department Programme, which St. John's announced it would be stepping back from. The Foundation has confirmed they will be fundraising $75,000 to ensure the continuation of this valuable volunteer programme for the next three years.

For more information or to donate, visit www.pnhospitalfoundation.co.nz.





LETTER TO THE EDITOR - Bus stops

Dear Editor,

Some good news re bus stops and shelters. There is now another bus stop in Ingestre Street outside Hill Street Greens and a matching one on the other side for the homeward journey. So, they are a little closer to the places people may wish to visit i.e. WINZ, Age Concern, and the council offices.

This urgent need for a bus shelter in St Hill Street opposite Trafalgar Square for those going to the hospital and Gonville has been recognised, so hopefully one will be placed there fairly soon, which I am sure will make life a lot more pleasant for those who at present have to stand with no cover or seating.

I see the Ratepayers & Residents Association is inviting people to comment on the bus service. May I suggest that besides a QR Code, they also have a phone number for people to ring in with their views, as a majority of bus users are in the 'mature' age group and may not have access to a QR code!

Yours faithfully

Fiona Donne

Editor's note: Paper copies of the Whanganui Residents & Ratepayers Association (WRRA) bus survey are available for collection and drop-off at Age Concern Whanganui, located at 164 St Hill Street, Whanganui.

WANGANUI SECONDARY SCHOOL NEWS

Redefining boarding, academic excellence, family first



At Whanganui Collegiate School, a modern approach to boarding is reshaping how families navigate secondary education.

"Boarding today is no longer about sending a child away, it's about expanding their world while maintaining deep family connections," says Headmaster Ainsley Robson. "Our model allows students to fully immerse themselves in campus life during the week, enjoying structured evening prep, top-tier coaching, and incredible peer support, while giving families the flexibility they need."

Tailored for Modern Family Life

Recognising that no two families operate the same way, Collegiate offers a spectrum of options tailored to your lifestyle:

• **Full Boarding:** A vibrant, seven-day community where students build lifelong global networks, participate in rich weekend activities, and experience house tradition.

• **Regional Boarding:** Designed for families living within 1–2 hours of campus or connected via regional air routes. Students spend structured nights on campus focusing on academics and sports, returning home for weekends.

•**Part-Time Boarding (2–3 Nights):** Get the benefits of boarding with home nearby. Staying on campus two or three fixed nights each week eliminates daily travel, reclaims study hours, and builds independent routines without burnout.

• **Whanganui Boarding (4 Nights)**: For local families, this four-night model (Monday to Friday) offers structured evening prep and house camaraderie while keeping weekends completely free.

• **Casual Boarding:** Flexible overnight stays available as needed, ideal for busy extracurricular schedules, exam prep, or family travel.

Planning for 2027 and Beyond

With 2027 enrolments open, families are encouraged to experience the historic campus firsthand. Whether seeking a complete seven-day experience or a flexible weeknight routine that eliminates the daily school run, Whanganui Collegiate School helps your child thrive.

Discover Whanganui Collegiate School

• **Enrol Now:** Applications open for 2027/28 Enrolments (Full & Flexible Boarding).

• **Tour Day (November 6):** Come and experience house life, meet staff, and tour facilities.

• To Book a Tour or Enrol Visit: www.collegiate.school.nz, **Call:** 06 349 0110 or **Email:** admissions@collegiate.school.nz



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World Suicide Prevention Day

Thursday 10 September 2026

Males more than twice as likely to die by suicide



World Suicide Prevention Day on September 10 is a global observance dedicated to raising awareness that suicide can be prevented and encouraging action to save lives. It addresses the reality that over 700,000 people die by suicide each year, leaving lasting impacts on families, communities, and societies, and aims to replace silence and stigma with openness, empathy, and support.

In the 2024/25 financial year, there were 630 suspected suicides in New Zealand, lower than the 16-year average. Of these, 474 were males and 156 were females, highlighting that males are more than twice as likely to die by suicide.

Suicide rates for Māori males aged 15–44 and those living in more deprived areas are particularly high.

Age groups with the highest suicide rates in 2019/20 were 25–29, 30–34, and 80–84. Overall, New Zealand has one of the highest youth suicide rates in the OECD.

The Ministry of Health and other organisations provide a range of services to prevent suicide, including mental health support, crisis intervention, and community-based programmes.

Key strategies focus on:

• Early recognition of distress and risk factors

• Support for families, whānau, and communities

• Building resilience and mental wellbeing

• Targeted interventions for high-risk groups, such as Māori youth and males

* * *

If someone has attempted suicide or you're worried about their immediate safety, do the following:

• Call your local mental health crisis assessment team or go with them to the emergency department (ED) at your nearest hospital.

• If they are an immediate physical danger to themselves or others, call 111.

• Stay with them until support arrives.

• Remove any obvious means of suicide they might use (e.g. guns, medication, car keys, knives, rope).

• Try to stay calm and let them know you care.

• Keep them talking: listen and ask questions without judging.

• Make sure you are safe.

If you think someone may be suicidal, ask them. It could save their life.

• Asking about suicide will not put the thought in their head.

• Ask them directly about their thoughts of suicide and what they are planning. If they have a specific plan, they need help right away.

• Ask them if they would like to talk about what's going on for them with you or someone else. They might not want to open up straight away, but letting them know you are there for them is a big help.

• Listen and don't judge. Take them seriously and let them know you care.

• Help them to find and access the support they need from people they trust: friends, family, kaumātua, religious, community or cultural leaders, or professionals.

• Don't leave them alone – make sure someone stays with them until they get help.

• Support them to access professional help, like a doctor or counsellor, as soon as possible. Offer to help them make an appointment, and go with them if you can.

• If they don't get the help they need the first time, keep trying. Ask them if they would like your help explaining what they need to a professional.

Signs to look for

Most people thinking about taking their own life will try to let someone know, but they often won't say so directly.

If someone shows one or more of these signs, it doesn't necessarily mean they are suicidal, but they may need support. You might notice they:

• tell you they want to die or kill themselves

• access things they could use to hurt themselves, like a rope or gun

• read or write about suicide online, or post photos or videos about suicide

• become obsessed with death

• become isolated or withdrawn from family, whānau and friends

• don't seem to be coping with any problems they may be having

• have changes in mood – becoming depressed, angry or enraged

• hurt themselves – for example, cutting skin or taking an overdose

• feel worthless, guilty, whakamā or ashamed

• have no hope for the future

• use drugs or alcohol to cope with difficult feelings or thoughts

• loose or gain a lot of weight, or have unusual eating patterns

• sleep a lot more than usual, or stop getting enough sleep

• seem to have lost interest in life, or things they used to enjoy

• give away possessions, pay back debts or 'tie up loose ends'

• stop taking their medication

• suddenly seem calm or happy after they have been depressed or suicidal.

Some people who are suicidal might not show these signs, and some warning signs may not be obvious. People who feel suicidal might try to hide what they are going through or pretend they are okay.

If you think that someone might be at risk, pay attention to changes in their behavior, trust your instincts and ask them directly if they are thinking about suicide.

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Churton School bike shed transformed with murals

The Churton School Bike Shed has been around for some time. It was your traditional boring shed until a staff member decided to contact well-known local mural painter Michelle Sigley. She told the RCP that "I follow her page on Facebook and reached out to her on Messenger about the possibility of making the shed a vibrant, attractive place. Michelle was happy to design and paint the mural."

The next step was to get funding from the school, and the Board received the request positively. However, a member on the board suggested they contact Nga Tai O Te Awa Trust, whose mission is to "To empower Māori to thrive in life, health and wellbeing." They were already supporting the school in developing the school's gardens and were happy to give some more funding for the mural.

Principal Cara Barron explains, "We have a fleet of school bikes available for the students to use especially in lunch time. We had some given after we had a bike track installed but we have been able to expand numbers, thanks to a Greenbikes who donated some second hand bikes and also ran students workshops on basic bike maintenance, and a parent.

This parent asked the community to bring in any unused bikes which he checked out and now maintains. He was able to supply 16 bikes with a few bikes in reserve for future use. The bike shed has space for about 20 bikes.



Some of the students with the bikes in front of the bike shed with its vibrant murals.

The RCP was there at 1pm in time for their lunch, when the bike shed was opened. The bikes were soon taken up. Cara says, "The bikes have revived the use of the track especially for the little ones."

It has been a series of good news for Churton. Downers has recently provided a concrete track from the hall to the bike shed and under the programme 'Paper for Trees' the school has received more native trees to plant. (the card and paper is picked up each month and the school in paid in trees.)

The school also received some training under the 'Bikes in School' programme, especially for the younger children and this has encouraged more take up of the school bikes.

As Cara says, "All these things happened together. It was great timing."

Indoor Bowls results

Wanganui Teams third in Paterson Trophy Interprovisional Division 4 (North): 1st: Taranaki **2nd**: Thames Valley **3rd**: Wanganui.

The team of eight were as follows: Chrissy Adams, Lindsay Bourne, Tania Plumridge, Brian McCarthy, Garth Lyne, Craig Bourne, Robyn Osborne and Chrissy Crawford. Alton Heaslip (selector).

Wenham Cup results for 2026: 1st: Les Heywood, Lindsay Bourne, Chrissy Adams and Karen Laurie. **R/Up**: Garth Lyne, Elaine Naysmith, Ann Goater and Yvonne Hendry. Final score after 21 ends 17 to 16.

Champion of Champion Triples: **1st**: Les Heywood, Lyndsay Bourne and Chrissy Crawford **R/Up**: Robyn Gracie, Joan Raymond and Joe Fallon

Champion of Champion Fours: **1st**: Les Heywood, Chrissy Adams, Robert Sinclair and Tim Whitlock **R/Up**: Alton Heaslip, Robert Hackbarth, Maria Hackbarth and Tania Plumridge

Funding open for local projects that reduce waste



Easy Earth collects food scraps and turns it into compost

Applications are now open for Whanganui District Council's Waste Minimisation Fund, which supports projects that reduce waste and keep valuable resources in use for longer.

Funded through the national Waste Minimisation Levy (not rates), the fund is open to community groups, businesses, Iwi and Hapū, education providers and individuals in the Whanganui District.

Councillor Rob Vinsen says the council is particularly keen to support projects that prevent waste from being created in the first place through redesign, reuse, repair or repurposing.

"Recycling has an important role to play, but there are even greater benefits when we can avoid creating waste altogether or find ways to keep materials and products in use for longer.

"We know there are people and organisations across Whanganui with good ideas about how we can reduce waste. This fund gives them an opportunity to put those ideas into practice and demonstrate what can work."

Previous funding rounds have supported a range of local initiatives, including food waste recovery, construction waste recycling and projects that make it easier for materials to be reused rather than sent to landfill.

One local business supported through the fund is Easy Earth, which has diverted around 2,700 tonnes of organic material from landfill since it began operating in 2019.

Easy Earth collects food scraps from Whanganui businesses and households and processes them locally using an in-vessel composting system, turning material that would otherwise rot in a landfill into compost.

Easy Earth founder Derek Pickering says the business was established to give people a sustainable way to deal with food scraps – when those services weren't otherwise readily available.

"We believe that a lot of people want to do the right thing for the environment, but the right services aren't always available to allow that to happen.

"The seed funding from the Waste Minimisation Fund was a huge help in our early days. It allowed us to roll out our composting services faster and provide a better service to our customers, which ultimately meant more organic waste being diverted from landfill."

Up to $60,000 a year is available through the Waste Minimisation Fund across two funding rounds. Commercial projects can receive funding for up to 40% of their total project costs, while community and public good projects can receive up to 60%.

Applications are open from now until 13 October 2026.

For more information, to discuss a project idea, or to apply, visit: whanganui.govt.nz/waste-minimisation-fund

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Upcoming Architecture and Design events planned

Aotearoa New Zealand's annual celebration of architecture takes place in September. It is organised by Te Kāhui Whaihanga/ NZ Institute of Architects. There will be talks, exhibitions, open studios, walking tours, interactive workshops at a number of centres around New Zealand especially in Auckland.

The Institute was established in 1905 and currently has over 4,300 members.

Also happening during September is in:situ + Commonwealth Association of Architects General Assembly, the largest architecture event ever held in Aotearoa.

While the Aotearoa Festival of Architecture doesn't have major stand-alone listings in Whanganui for September, Whanganui is instead taking centre stage next month as the primary anchor city for the brand new national Festival of Design Aotearoa (16–25 October 2026).

Given Whanganui's status as Aotearoa's only UNESCO City of Design, this massive 10-day festival will feature over 50 architectural exhibitions, tours, open studios, and talks. It will bring together leading designers, artists, technologists, makers and creative thinkers from Aotearoa and overseas for ten days of talks, exhibitions, installations, workshops and live events.

The key design and architectural events happening in Whanganui are as follows:

Architectural Exhibitions & Open Studios



• **Black Pine Architects Open Studios**: Sunday, 18 October – Step into a working local firm to check out behind-the-scenes design processes.

• **Design Review Journal Covers Exhibition & Book Launch**: Tuesday, 20 October (5:00 PM – 7:00 PM) at Lockett Gallery (62 Guyton Street) – Small Bore Books launches an architectural selection from New Zealand's first design magazine archives (1947-1953). The exhibition runs until 25 October.

• **HAUSLFYE; how to make a Haus a Home**: Friday, 16 October to Monday, 26 October at HotHaus – An exhibition opening night on 16 October exploring domestic structural environments.

• **The City & The City Exhibition**: Friday, 16 October to Sunday, 25 October at Edith Gallery (Taupo Quay) – A curated visual look at city systems, with an evening networking session on Tuesday, 20 October at 4:00 PM.

Tours & Interactive Building Events

• **Te Whare o Rehua Sarjeant Gallery Tour**: Sunday, 18 October – A guided structural and gallery tour highlighting Whanganui's iconic redeveloped heritage piece.

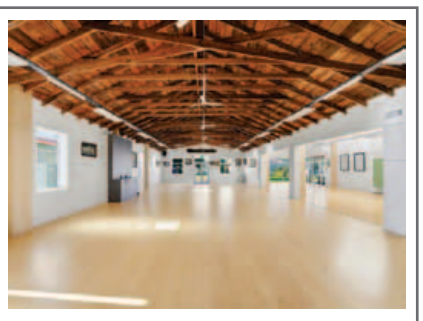
• **Te Ao Hou Marae Open Day**: Saturday, 17 October & Sunday, 18 October – Experience "He Puawaitanga", exploring indigenous architecture and flourishing Māori spaces.

• **WELL-LUG Brick Builders – Architecture that Connects**: Friday, 16 October to Sunday, 18 October at the Whanganui War Memorial Centre – A massive public LEGO exhibition showcasing creative, technical architectural builds relating to local arts and culture.

Talks & Innovation Summits

• **Designing Tomorrow Summit**: Friday, 16 October to Saturday, 17 October – The premier opening forum of the festival discussing urban futures and structural innovation.

• **Beyond Boundaries – Technology & Design**: Tuesday, 20 October (6:00 PM) at Hive HQ Whanganui – A look into how new tech is redefining modern spatial and physical build formats.

Architects for Putiki Marae's Aotea Renewal: Architecture that serves the community's need to gather, celebrate, and provide exceptional manaakitanga.

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New local band to perform this Friday



The Funk Rockers

Fred Loveridge has been vibrating airwaves with his powerful lead guitar and vocal delivery through an array of popular bands, like Whiskey Mama, for decades, and now with the latest band, the Funk Rockers, a seven-piece ensemble of concentrated local talent (and Taihape). They'll be performing at Porridge Watson on 11 September, at 8.30pm. Expect some classics, jazz, blues, even a bit of Ska; think Madness.

The band is made up of some of Whanganui's other rock, rhythm and jazz royalty: Clyde Dixon on trumpet and flugelhorn; Michael Franklyn-Browne, drums; Dave Griffiths, bass and vocals; Brent Holt, keyboards and vocals; Riwai Hina, trombone; and last but not least, the youngest in the band, Smokin' Joe Kennedy from Taihape on saxes and vocals.

Fred says, "Joe's a young lad in his 20s; I call him The Kid." Taihape is not just Joe's home town; it was the home of Fred's musical inspiration, his mum's family, the Steedman's. Her brothers were an integral part of the music scene. Fred started young in his musical journey, following not just his uncles but also his older brother Murray.

Fred says, "I'd play anything, just to be in a band."

Well, you can catch this latest band, the Funk Rockers, by buying tickets on Eventfinda: www.eventfinda.co.nz/2026/the-funk-rockets-live-at-porridge/whanganui/tickets

There will be door sales, too. That's if the event isn't sold out.

It won't be long before this magnificent seven will be recording their own compositions. That will be something to listen out for.

"Whanganui East Pool refurbishment is irresponsible", says Councillor Philippa Baker-Hogan

One of Whanganui's longest-serving and experienced Councillors, Cr Philippa Baker-Hogan, says the proposed Whanganui East Refurbishment is incredibly irresponsible of Council in the environment we are operating in.

Philippa says she reluctantly supported the resolution to refurbish Whanganui East Pool utilising the $2 million funding provisioned in the 2025/26 Annual Plan a year ago, to demonstrate her support for sport and recreation and the Whanganui East community.

However, Philippa says, "A year on, I cannot stand by any further while this Council ignores the ongoing and growing rates burden this facility will continue to place on our community, in this significant cost of living and fuel crisis."

"While not supporting every decision of Council over the years, the burden of decisions that have imposed recent on-going significant debt liabilities on our ratepayers due to the $11m projected debt cost of the Flight School (NZICPA) and the over fivefold increase in ratepayer capital contribution to over $26 million towards the Sarjeant Gallery extension, as well as other impacts likely around Housing, the Port, the water services merger with Ruapehu District (Local Water Done Well) and likely regionalisation to come, will all make it impossible to live within the proposed Government four percent rate cap and we cannot responsibly add the Whanganui East Pool upgrade burden to the growing list."

She believes that while the Citizens' Assembly proposal was an honourable idea to help Council decide on the future of Outdoor Aquatics, the assembly was not provided with the support it needed, went out of scope, promoting features like a 50 metre indoor pool and couldn't agree on a clear resolution to Council.

The resolution agreed by Council in August 2025 provided $2 million for the Whanganui East Pool refurbishment. Phillipa advises that Councillors had a workshop in late June this year and "it is clear $2 million is not adequate to provide a safe, warm, fun facility. The aged Pool is over 100 years old and past its useful life, yet Council is continuing to spend time and ratepayer money on refurbishment and procurement options, rather than bringing a paper back to Council for a decision to proceed, pause or stop this proposal, as is required now."

She argues that Whanganui and its ratepayers deserve and need a modern, safe, fun outdoor public pool area into the future and believes that the Splash Centre is the only logical, affordable, modern option that will work for everyone. This is because it is in the centre of Whanganui, has the outdoor space between the most recent indoor recreation pool facility and the Community Bike Track and was proposed to have significant operating savings and the opportunity to invest in helping our school children become water safe.



"I am aware there is pressure on within Council to get the refurbishment to under $2m, which I'm concerned about. I'm not on Council to be popular and while I support opportunities for our suburbs to prosper, the financial burden to support the refurbishment of Whanganui East Pool and the on-gong operational cost will become a repeat of the exorbitant cost to the ratepayer of the Sarjeant Gallery and Flight School – it is simply unaffordable and irresponsible."

Would you know what to do if someone is injured?

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training@links-ltd.co.nz
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~ Wanganui Sheep Dog Trials results ~

The Wanganui Sheep Dog Trial Centre held their annual Tux yarding challenge at Ohingaiti two weeks ago. The competition started Thursday 27 August and ran through to Sunday, when the run-off of the top 18 dogs was held to determine the winner,

At the same time, 3 maiden competitors competed for the top maiden/man/maiden dog title.

Laura Geering from the Waikato judged the event, her second Tux Judging job; it was a pretty gruelling three and a half days for her, with 240 dogs strutting their stuff.

A Trans-Tasman event was held at the same time.

Dannevirke's Bernard Arends, with Tarn, won the Tux Yarding challenge with 97.5 points.

The good vibe story of the week was Christine Neilson and Pal, from the Waikato Centre placing 2nd in the runoff.

Pal, at two years old in April 2024, was diagnosed with 'Autoimmune Meningitis', when, after the first fit, Pal was blind, unable to walk or stand. He was rushed to Auckland VSA, where he turned extremely aggressive to vets and nurses and had to be kept highly sedated.

Once it was established that Pal had the very rarely seen 'Autoimmune Meningitis', he was put on treatment. Christine, because of the suffering and state Pal was in, wanted to have him euthanised, but the vets talked her into giving him one more day to come out of it. That one day saved his life.

Christine took him home and had him on numerous pills for months. By October 2024, she had successfully weaned him off all medication and was resigned to him never working again at competition level, and just being a pet.

His 2nd placing at Ohingaiti Tux was something she never thought would happen in her wildest dreams, and was payment in full for the wonderful care and love she has given him. I'm sure these two will be around for many more competitions.

Four Wanganui trialists figured in the final: Wayne Falkner and Tess, Joleen Joslin & Jen from Utiku, Duncan Atkinson and Jack from Whangaehu, and Don White with Nap from Marton.

The Maiden/man/dog section was won by Ashton Taylor with Hux from Raetihi.

The sheep for the event were provided by Josh and Emma Brennan. The beautiful Romney ewe hoggets were perhaps a test for some dogs and their owners, but made for a great competition.

Emma Brennan and her small team did a wonderful job catering for everyone over the four days.

Special mention and BIG THANKS to secretary Phillippa Lambourn, who has a huge workload leading up to, during, and after the event. She kept everything running like clockwork.

Open Results: **1**. B Arends Tarn 97.5; **2**. Christine Neilson Pal 97 **3**.Wayne Falkner Tess 96.5 **4**. L Jecentho Rob 95.5 **5**. L Jecentho Blaze 94.5 **6**. G Cole Moss 94 **7**. L Horsfall May 92.5; **8**. L Jecentho Zap 92.25 **9**. L Gratten Tiki 91.5 **10**. D Atkinson Jack 90 **11**. B Gower Spike 89.5 **12**. G Strawbridge Gem 88.5 **13**. C Pearson Syd 79 **14**. G Peacock Scrap 79 15. J Foss Nip 76 **16**. D White Nap 76; **17**. N Sinton Yellow 68 **18**. J Joslin Jen 33.5.

Maiden: **1**. A Taylor Hux 88: **2**. W Bloxham Boss 67 **3**. M Horrocks Belle 44.5.

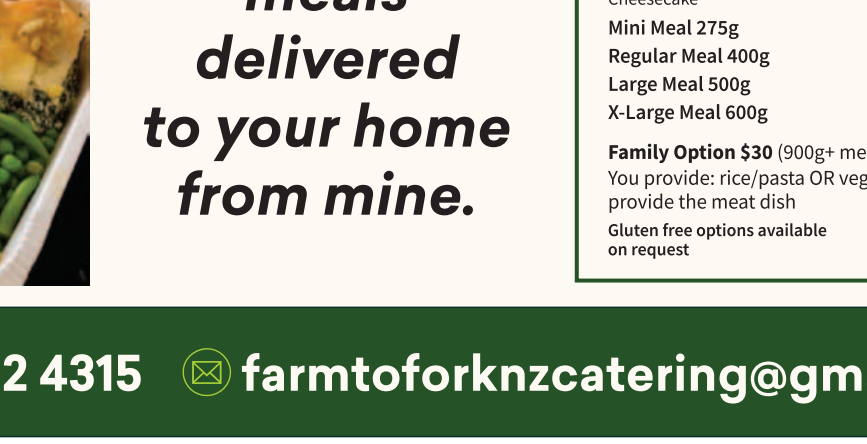
Open/maiden top points over trial: Leo Jecentho Blaze 97.

Trans /Tasman Results:

Thursday: **1**. J Stratten Spy 92 **2**. D Lowery Gem 91 **3**. J Foss Bindi 90. Judge B Parkinson

Friday: **1**. L Jecentho Zap 91 **2**. B Bruce Skip 90; **3**. C Baker Nia 87.5.Judge Gavin Drake

Saturday: **1**. A Clements Fern 97 **2**. G Peacock Scrap 91.5 **3**. L Horsfall Thor 91. Judge Ian Burling.



Maiden finalists. From left: Wayne Bloxham, Meg Horrocks, Ashton Taylor and judge Laura Geering.



Wayne Falkner and Tess at the cross. Third overall

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EST 2025

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FARM TO FORK OUR MENUS

MENU A
10 September
5 October
5 November
3 December

Roast of Pork, Gravy & Apple Sauce
Roast veg, mashed potato, peas, broccoli

Beef n' Beer Stew
Creamy mashed potato, peas, broccoli & wilted spinach

Lemon & Herb Steamed Fish
Creamed spinach, Hasselback potato, green beans & broccoli

Chicken Saagwala
Served on a bed of rice

Lamb & Kumara Pot Pie
Potato mash, silverbeet, broccoli & roast pumpkin

MENU B
17 September
15 October
12 November
10 December

Roast Beef & Gravy
Roast veg, mashed potato, peas, broccoli, sweet n' sour beetroot

Devilled Sausages
On mashed potato, cabbage, peas & broccoli

French Lamb Stew
Mashed potato, creamed spinach, broccoli & beans

Smoked Fish Pie
Potato top, wilted spinach, green beans, roast kumara

Chicken & Pumpkin Lasagne
Served with spinach, broccoli, peas

MENU C
24 September
22 October
19 November
17 December

Roast Chicken Breast
Stuffing & gravy, roast veg, mashed potato & peas

Tangy Meatloaf
Mashed potato, broccoli, cauli, bake, peas, cabbage

Prawn & Chorizo Rice Bake
With fresh herbs

Sausage & Caramelised Onion Quiche
With paprika potato & leek gratin

Lamb Puttanesca
Potato mash, herby carrots, green beans, spinach

MENU D
1 October
29 October
26 November
7 January

Corned Beef with Mustard Sauce
Mash potato, cabbage, peas, saucy cauli, roast pumpkin

Baked Potato with Lamb Mince
Shredded cheese & sour cream

Slow-Cooked Chicken Casserole
with mash of potato green beans, broccoli

Dan-Dan Noodles
Stir-fried vegetables & spring onion

Lemony Crumbed Fish
Potato mash, broccoli, tomato ragu & beans

SIDES & SIZES

Soup	$7.50
Dessert Fruit crumble or Apple pie or Cheesecake	$7.50
Mini Meal 275g	$14
Regular Meal 400g	$16
Large Meal 500g	$18
X-Large Meal 600g	$20

Family Option $30 (900g+ meat) - you supply
You provide: rice/pasta OR veg/salad and we provide the meat dish

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Glastonbury Dance Studio

INTER-SCHOOL DANCESPORT CHALLENGE

War Memorial Centre, Whanganui I FRIDAY 18 SEPTEMBER - Starting at 11am

PUBLIC WELCOME - CASH DOOR SALES ONLY

Public welcome to watch the Inter School Dancesport Challenge

The Inter School Dancesport Challenge will be held on Friday, September 18, at the Whanganui War Memorial Centre. This is the fifth year it has been running and competitors from six regional schools will be taking part. Yr 5/6 and 7/8 students will perform a Waltz and a Cha Cha in their separate age groups, where champions of each will be crowned. This year, over 100 couples will take on the challenge after having had six lessons at each school during Term 3.

Principal at Glastonbury Dance Studio, Mark Glastonbury, says teaching them to dance is just one facet of the programme he delivers. It also breaks down the barriers that young boys and girls go through in these age divisions by forming mutual respect for their partner, building teamwork, learning a new skill and performing live in front of parents and family at the event.

This year's event will feature demonstrations by David Trent and Aleksi Killian (pictured), NZ's top Youth couple (16-21 yrs). They were recently placed in the top 10 at the World 10 Dance Championships in Taiwan.

The public are welcome, and cash only sales will be available at the door for $10 per adult, children under 15 are free. Pre-purchased wristbands for express entry are also available from any of these school offices: Raetihi Primary, Ohakune Primary, Carlton School, Mosston School, St Mary's School and St George's School.

The event runs from 11am -2pm.





MOSSTON SCHOOL

Wishing our students success in the Inter-School Dancesport Challenge

211 Mosston Road, Wanganui
Phone 345 5432
www.mosston.school.nz

RAETIHI PRIMARY SCHOOL

WHAKAKOTAHI KI TE MAHI
(Unite In Service)

Pleased to support Glastonbury Dance and the Inter-School Dance Challenge.

24 Grey St, Raetihi | 06 385 4402
office@raetihi.school.nz

Carlton School

Carlton School

Supporting Glastonbury Dance and our students in the Inter-School Dancesport Challenge

Hapaitia te ara tika
Foster the pathway of knowledge

Phone 06 345 0336
99A Carlton Avenue, Wanganui

OHAKUNE PRIMARY SCHOOL
PLAY THE GAME

We are very happy to support
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52 Arawa Street, Ohakune 4625
Phone: 06 385 8384

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and the
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Mushroom-grown coffins



Dutchman Bob Hendrikx, the founder of Loop Biotech, developed the Living Cocoon, a biodegradable coffin grown from mycelium (the underground root network of mushrooms) and upcycled hemp fibres. The mixture is placed in a coffin-shaped mould and put in a 'climate room' to grow for seven days.

Under suitable soil conditions after burial, it becomes part of the soil in approximately 45 days.

The coffins are suitable for traditional burials, natural burials and cremation.

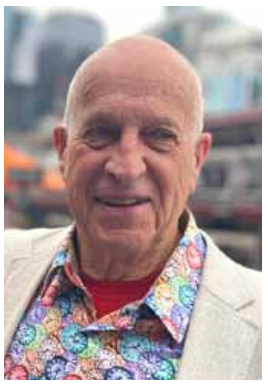
Currently made only in the Netherlands, they have been introduced to Australia, where the first mushroom coffin burial took place on 4 September and now also to New Zealand. Hendrikx hopes that it will be possible to grow the mixture here in New Zealand which would cut down on emissions from shipping and presumably the price.

Loop products are available in more than 12 countries and have been used in more than 10,000 funerals and memorials worldwide.

The price is likely to be similar to a traditional coffin.

Horizons Notes

A personal view with Cr Alan Taylor



Kudos to Whanganui District Council, local hapu and our rowing/waka ama fraternity

On July 29, Council's 3-waters manager Kritzo Venter presented to Horizons with a call for funding an investigation looking for solutions to riverbank erosion threatening our District's rowing and waka ama facilities. Kritzo delivered a robust analysis of the deteriorating conditions surrounding, and especially below, the Aramoho boat club houses.

The proposal highlighted the integrated nature of river dynamics, vegetation and biodiversity on the riverbank, and land stability. The human dimension of the Somme Parade walkway and Whanganui's history of sport associated with the awa was woven into the environmental story. Underlying this narrative lie the 'abundance' principles embedded in Te Heke Ngāhuru (whole of river strategy).

Whanganui District Council delivered an obviously compelling case that was backed by passion from our river sports representatives and hapū. There is a strong case for this work to proceed with haste as buildings, storm and wastewater infrastructure, and our road access to Aramoho are threatened. We have a proud rowing heritage and growing waka ama enthusiasm. These are vulnerable. The biodiversity evident on our riverbank is at risk. In supporting this study, Horizons Regional Council is acknowledging the river and rowing course is a regional asset.

I felt privileged to speak in support of funding the investigation which will come from Horizons' Lower Whanganui River Scheme reserves, thus not adding to your rates bill. The report will deliver potential pathways forward for restoration work; work that will require considerably more future funding.

It was heartening to see the support of all our Horizons' councillors, some of whom rowed on the awa while at school in Whanganui. The delegation from our city included an olympic medalist which led me to reflect on my having known well two late gold medal Whanganui rowing olympians.

The project is another wonderful example of how community groups and different councils can work together. This is further evidence of why the economically and democratically costly process of local government amalgamation is clearly misguided, wasteful, and unnecessary. We already know how to get on with stuff.

ZONED SCHOOLS ENROLMENTS

STUDENT SPACES AVAILABLE!
Out-of-zone students encouraged to apply NOW!

Carlton School

Carlton School

ENROLMENTS 2027

Enrolment at Carlton School is governed by an enrolment scheme, details of which are available from the school office.

The Carlton School Board has determined that for 2027 there are likely to be up to 20 out-of-zone places at new entrant level. The exact number of places will depend on the number of applications received from students who live within the school's home zone.

There are currently no (0) out-of-zone places at other year levels.

Applications for 2027 will close on **Monday the 12th of October 2026**. If the number of out-of-zone applications exceeds the number of places available students will be selected by ballot to be held on **Friday the 16th of October 2026**. Parents will be advised of the result of their application by **Wednesday the 21st of October 2026**.

Parents of students who live within the home zone planning to enrol in 2027 are also encouraged to advise the school by this date to assist us plan appropriately.

Any unfilled places or additional places that become available during 2027 will be advertised midway through the preceding term.

For more details phone **06 345 0336** or **www.carltonschool.co.nz**

Out-of-zone applications

Enrolling your 5-year-old for a 2027 start

Some Whanganui schools operate enrolment zones or **special conditions in order to reduce the risk of overcrowding at the school. Each of these schools has a home zone or special conditions as agreed between the Ministry of Education, the school board and surrounding schools. Children who reside in the home zone have automatic right to enrol at that school (schools usually require proof of address).

The following schools have enrolment zones or special conditions:

Carlton School. Ph. 06 345 0336

Durie Hill School. Ph. 06 345 5946

Faith City School**. Ph. 06 345 7737

Fordell School. Ph. 06 342 7828

Kai Iwi School. Ph. 06 342 9823

Kaitoke School. Ph. 06 345 0474

Mosston School. Ph. 06 345 5432

St Johns Hill School. Ph. 06 349 1750

Upokongaro School. Ph. 06 345 6424

Westmere School. Ph. 06 345 6919.

Enrolment zone boundaries can be found at here: https://www.educationcounts.govt.nz/find-school

The schools with advertisements on these pages have spaces available for 2027. Please read the advertisements to find out what year groups at each school are available.

If there is no advertisement then, unfortunately, that school is already full for 2027.

If you would like your child to attend one of these schools and you do not live in their zone, you must apply to participate in their ballot. Your child may be included in the ballot for more than one school. Please contact the school/s to apply to be included in the ballot.

The close-off date for the 2026 ballot for 2027 spaces is Monday, **12 October 2026**. Note: for some schools the October ballot covers the whole of 2027, while other schools may hold additional ballot/s throughout the year (please contact the school's office for details).

Applications from out-of-zone students are prioritised based on special programmes run by the school or by the family's current or ear-



If you are out-of-zone and thinking of joining us in 2027, our ballot applications will open on 12 SEPTEMBER 2026 via our school website www.upokongaro.school.nz/ and close on 12 OCTOBER 2026 at 12pm

If you have any questions or would like to visit, please contact us on phone 06 345 6424 or email: office@upokongaro.net

ZONED SCHOOLS ENROLMENTS

STUDENT SPACES AVAILABLE!
Out-of-zone students encouraged to apply NOW!

are now being accepted for the schools advertised

lier relationship (usually by attendance) with the school. Full details are available from the school office.

If there are more applications than places available, selection will be by random ballot within each priority group.

Ballots (if required) will be held on Friday, **16 October, 2026**.



All out-of-zone families will be advised of the result of their application, by Wednesday **21 October, 2026**. Unsuccessful applicants will be placed on a waiting list.

If your child is successful in applying to multiple schools, parents are encouraged to notify schools of your choice of school as soon as possible to help with planning and give some certainty to other families involved in the ballot/s.

More detailed information can be found at the following web address: https://parents.education.govt.nz/primary-school/schooling-in-nz/enrolment-schemes-zoning/

**Note: as a State Integrated School, Faith City School has a maximum roll number and operates its enrolment scheme using preference criteria rather than a home zone. Contact the school for further details.

MOSSTON SCHOOL 2027 ENROLMENTS

Mosston School operates an enrolment scheme. In-zone students have automatic right of enrolment. Please go to **www.mosston.school.nz/enrolment-zone** or visit the school office for information on the zone.

Applications for enrolment for anytime in 2027 must be at the school office by **Monday 12th of October 2026**. A ballot will be held on **Friday, 16th of October.** Applicants will be advised of the result of their application by **Wednesday 21st October.**

We have up to 15 spaces for out of zone enrolments. at the Year 0/1 level. These are expected to be filled by applicants who are siblings of current students. There are no out-of-zone spaces available at any other year levels.

For further information or to submit an application please contact the school office on **ph 345 5432**, email **office@mosston.school.nz** or contact the principal **Michelle Watson**: **mwatson@mosston.school.nz**

www.mosston.school.nz

ENROLMENTS 2027 — WESTMERE SCHOOL

Piki Ake Te Poutama
Building Future Leaders Today

Out of Zone enrolment applications are invited from parents who would like their children to attend **Westmere School in 2027.**

The following out-of-zone places are available for 2027:

- Up to **10 New Entrant/Y1** (starting School Feb - April 2027)
- Up to **10 Year 0 children** (starting School May - Dec 2027)
- Up to **9 Year 3** (Year 3 in 2027)

The exact number of places available for students living outside the zone will depend on the number of enrolments received within our zone. **There are no out-of-zone places available in 2027 for any other year group.**

Applications close 12th October. A ballot will be conducted on Friday 16th October and all families will be advised of the result of their application by **Wednesday 21st October 2026.**

For more information and application forms, please contact the School or our Website.

Phil Walker - Tumuaki/Principal

Fordell School

21 Budge Street, Fordell
Ph: 06 3427828

ENROL NOW For 2027

We are currently welcoming enquiries and enrolments for 2027. We are a full Primary School Year 0-8 (5-13 year olds), just 10 minutes from town.
We have the following out of zone placments:

- Limited new entrant spaces
- Limited Year 3, 4, and 6 spaces

- Close off for 2027 applications is Monday 12th October.
- If out of zone applicants exceed number of available places a ballot will be held on Friday 16th October 2026.



ENROL NOW FOR 2027

Please contact Fordell School for a visit, further information or an enrolment pack.

officeadmin@fordell.school.nz
www.fordell.school.nz @fordellschool

Kaitoke School

Kake mai Piki mai | Rise up Climb high

ENROLMENTS for 2027

We are currently welcoming enquiries and enrolments for 2027

Full Primary, Year 0 - Year 8

Enrolments for out of zone students must be received by Monday 12th October, 2026

- *15 New entrant places*
- *Three Year 7 places*
- *If out of zone applicants exceed number of places a ballot will be held on Friday 16th October 2026.*
- *Confirmation of acceptance by Wednesday 21st October 2026*

We encourage you to visit our website for details about our school
www.kaitokeschool.com

For more information or an enrolment pack please contact either

Vanessa Duncan *Principal*
principal@kaitokeschool.com
06 345 0474
Joanne MacPhee *Office Administrator*
office@kaitokeschool.com

Durie Hill School

ENROLMENTS 2027

Enrolment applications are invited from parents who would like their children to attend Durie Hill School at any time in 2027.

Under an enrolment scheme, students will have an automatic right to enrol if they live within the school's zone. A map and explanation of the school's zone is available from the school. Please also see our website for details.

Students living outside the zone may still be able to attend, but parents will need to apply for enrolment. Parents should contact us immediately about this.

There are **15 New Entrant/Year 1 out-of-zone places likely to be available for 2027** (children starting school for the first time in 2027). There are **5 Year 2 - Year 6 out-of-zone places likely to be available for 2027.**

The exact number of places available for students living outside the zone will depend on the number of enrolments received from students living inside the school's home zone.

The deadline for out-of-zone applications to be received by the school for New Entrant/Year 1 and Year 2-6 students is **Monday 12th October 2026.**

If the number of out-of-zone applications is more than the number of places available, students will be selected by ballot. If a ballot is required, it will be held on **Friday 16th October 2026.**

For information, and application or enrolment forms, please contact the principal or school office administrator.

Parents of students living inside the zone should complete an enrolment form and hand to the school by this date also, so that the school can plan well for next year.

Contact details:
Principal - **Sheena Stampa**
sheenas@duriehill.school.nz

School Office Administrator
Nayna Lett-Cudby
office@duriehill.school.nz
ph 06 345 5946

Mini Pikes Gravel Hillclimb
Sponsored by WANGANUI EXHAUST & SERVICE CENTRE
Saturday 12th September • Rangitatau East Road, 10am Start

Wanganui Exhaust and Service Centre Mini Pikes Peak Hillclimb this Saturday



Paul and Rob

The Wanganui Car Club is pleased to announce that our 2025 sponsor has offered to sponsor the 2026 Mini Pike Peaks event again. Wanganui Exhaust and Service Centre has generously agreed to continue their sponsorship for the September 12th event. Held at Rangitatau East Road, the hill climb is regarded as the best of its type in the North Island. Past competitors have always rated this event as a favourite.

Located on Churton Street, Wanganui Exhaust and Service Centre has been in business for over 20 years, providing auto mechanical and fabrication services to both motorists in general, and motorsport enthusiasts. The proprietor, Paul Tulloch, is well known for his motorsport exploits in cars as varied as an early 1970's Datsun 1200, a V8 powered Toyota MR2 and the late Rob Bartley's Custaxie.

The event, on Rangitatau Road, some eight kilometres past Bushy Park is 5.4 kilometres long and comprises some of the best gravel racing available. There are sections that are tight, with multiple "hairpin" corners with some longer high-speed straights. The surface is consistent across the whole course, with the road surface being constructed entirely of shell rock.

Previous competitors have been well known rally champions such as Hayden Paddon, Emma Gilmour and Richard Mason. It is expected the event will attract drivers from all over the North Island and, with the incentive of free entry, our sponsor, Paul, will have his Toyota MR2 V8 out of the shed and competing this year. The Club is expecting some 30-plus drivers to enter.

While the Wanganui Car Club members predominately complete in tarmac events, there are two club members entering. Paul Tulloch, as mentioned in his wildly spectacular V8-powered Toyota Mr2, and Mark McGinniss in his Barracouta buggy powered by a Suzuki Hayabusa engine. We have not yet seen Mark compete in this car, but it will most certainly be entertaining with around 200 horsepower in a sub 500 kg car. We are also hoping to have an ex–New Zealand rally champion, Richard Mason, enter and show us all how to drive a gravel car.

Spectators are welcome with some top viewing locations along the course. As a matter of safety, those wishing to watch the event are requested to follow the Safety Marshals' instructions at all times. We emphasise that there are to be no pedestrians on the course at any time.

The Wanganui Car Club would like to take this opportunity to thank all those local residents and the landowners for their cooperation in allowing us to close the road. We are looking forward to a day of speed and fun. The road will be open to the public at intervals during the competition and will be under the strict control of the event officials.

WANGANUI EXHAUST & SERVICE CENTRE
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7 Churton Street, Wanganui
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Email tom.don66@gmail.com
www.tomditchfieldpanelbeaters.co.nz
mta ASSURED

~ Pigeon racing results ~

Last weekend, the pigeons raced from Waitara in warm breezy conditions.

Once again, Shane Guddop had the winning bird, which flew an impressive 1560.51m/m or 93.63km/hr. A close second was B&A Fairweather 1539.88m/m or 92.39km/hr. In third place was Don Lacy 1538.55m/m or 92.31km/hr. Then, Benedick Galanida 1529.90m/m or 91.79km/hr, Jim Pullins 1528.17m/m or 91.69km/hr, Heather Verstraeten 1524m/m or 91.48km/hr, Dave Lacy 1511.71m/m or 90.70km/hr and Alois Verstraeten 1508m/m or 90.48km/hr.

Next weekend's race is from Taumarunui, which is a similar distance to Waitara but will take the birds from a more westerly liberation point to the Central Plateau.

ms. Multiple Sclerosis Wanganui

Awareness Week

14 - 20 September

Estimated 5000 in NZ who have MS

Monday 14 until Sunday 20 September is Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Week. This is a week of raising our profile and some much-needed funds. MS is a chronic neurological disease for which we do not know a cure. There are an estimated 5,000 people who have MS in New Zealand.

70% of people diagnosed are between the ages of 20 and 50, MS is more common in women than men. MS is an autoimmune disease; the body's immune system mistakenly attacks normal tissue in the body. MS is a difficult illness to diagnose, there is no single laboratory test, symptoms or physical findings that can by themselves determine whether a person has MS. Symptoms include loss of balance or coordination; Tremor and weakness; Blurred and double vision; eye pain; difficulty with movements of legs, arms and hands; changes in bladder or bowels functions; numbness and pain; cognitive difficulties and memory issues; sexual problems and fatigue. Not all clients experience the same symptoms; no two people are the same with their MS. Our clients here in Wanganui are at a disadvantage as we do not have a resident Neurologist or an MS Nurse; clients having to travel to Palmerston North or Wellington.

We need more funding for research and to support keeping our local MS Community Advisors employed. We now have a new Facebook page here at MS Wanganui, to get the link type in Multiple Sclerosis Society Wanganui on Facebook. Each week we try to educate and keep you up to date with MS medical changes.

Sunday, 20 September we will be manning the BBQ at Mitre 10 from 10am until sold out. The event is to raise our profile in the local community and raise some much-needed funds, so we look forward to your support over the coming weeks.

Our office is in Community House, 60 Ridgway Street, Room 110, Wanganui.



Our phone number is Ph: 06 342336 or M: 027 381 2555 should you need to get in contact with me.

-Sharon Mesic
Community Advisor

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Hospice Whanganui launches Mitre 10 Mega Whanganui Dancing for Hospice 2027

Hospice Whanganui provides free specialist palliative care to people and whānau across our community, supporting patients to live well with dignity, choice and compassion. Every day, Hospice Whanganui delivers care in homes, rural communities, aged residential care facilities, and when requested, for short stays through its inpatient unit, helping patients and whānau receive support wherever they choose to be.

With an active caseload of between 80 and 120 patients at any one time, Hospice Whanganui offers a 24/7 on-call service supported by registered nurses, doctors, healthcare assistants, social workers, whānau support navigators and volunteers. The service costs around $4 million each year to operate with approximately half of that funding coming from government support. The remaining funds are raised through the generosity of the wider Whanganui community.

One of the most significant community fundraisers supporting this vital work is Mitre 10 MEGA Whanganui Dancing for Hospice 2027, which was officially launched recently to a packed audience backstage at the Royal Whanganui Opera House. This second biannual event sees local personalities step well outside their comfort zones.



Mitre 10 Mega Whanganui Dancing for Hospice launch last month

Hospice Whanganui Chairperson Jamie Procter acknowledged the businesses and individuals whose generosity and commitment make Dancing for Hospice possible, helping to ensure Hospice Whanganui can continue providing free, specialist palliative care to local patients and their whānau when they need it most.

Hospice Whanganui CEO Helen Leslie acknowledged the businesses and individuals who are getting behind Dancing for Hospice 2027 and helping make the event possible.

Mitre 10 MEGA Whanganui returns as Principal Sponsor, alongside Gold Sponsors Craig's Investment Partners, Display Associates and Emmett's Civil Construction. Since the launch, Wicksteed Pharmacy has also signed up as a Gold Sponsor and the Whanganui Vet Club as a silver sponsor.

Silver Sponsors, who are supporting dancing couples are;

• Property Brokers sponsoring **Tim Watson and Esther Dowman**

• Cleveland Funeral Home sponsoring **Michelle Cleveland and Craig Cleveland**

• House of Travel sponsoring **Carla McKinnon and Mark Glastonbury**

• Victoria Dental sponsoring **Sam Davis and Hadleigh Reid**

• CME Electrical sponsoring **Kylee Osborne and Shane Williams**

• Thompson Plumbing and Gas sponsoring **Louis Devine and Tori Rivers**

• Whanganui Vet Club sponsoring **Tom Adkins and Ginny Thompson**

• PKF Doyle & Associates sponsoring **Jamie Sicely and Nat Harris**

• Concept Tile Collective sponsoring **Simon Cairncross and Kath Mence**

• Emmett's Civil Construction sponsoring **Jen Munroe and Hayden Nottingham**

Returning to support the event are Blushes Beauty, whose team will once again provide hair and makeup services for the dancers.

Helen Leslie said community fundraising plays an essential role in sustaining Hospice services.

"While we receive around 50% of our funding from the Government each year and we are very grateful for that, we need to raise a significant amount each year to continue delivering our service. It is community events like Dancing for Hospice that make this possible. We are grateful for the support of our sponsors, dancers, volunteers and the wider community who truly enable us to keep delivering our 24/7 free specialist Palliative care service."

Whanganui Mayor Andrew Tripe, who competed in Dancing for Hospice 2025, reflected on his experience.

"It was time-consuming, but what an amazing cause. It's not about dancing; it's about why we're dancing."

Victoria Dental's Hadleigh Reid met his dance partner, Sam Davis, for the first time at the launch and was already preparing for the challenge ahead.

"I dance for fun like most people, but on the night, I might be asking, 'Why did I do this?' It will all come down to practice and having songs you don't get sick of."

Property Brokers' Tim Watson, who also owns Mud Ducks Café, said Hospice holds a special place in the hearts of many.

"We've all got strong connections with Hospice. It's such a special place."

That sentiment captured the atmosphere of the evening – a room full of people united by their appreciation of Hospice Whanganui and their willingness to give their time, energy and courage to support a service that touches so many lives.

Dancing for Hospice 2025 raised more than $170,000 for Hospice Whanganui. The goal is to make 2027 even bigger!

Ways to support Dancing for Hospice 2027

* Become a Sponsor or donate an Auction item for the gala event

* Information on tickets for our Dancing for Hospice Events (Live Dress Rehearsal 13 May and Gala event, 15 May) and people's choice voting will be available soon.

* Visit Hospice Whanganui for more information: www.hospicewhanganui.org.nz or call us on 06 349 0080











TE WIKI O TE REO MĀORI 14—20 HEPETEMA 2026

Māori Language Week reomaori.co.nz 14–20 September 2026

An evening of activities at Museum for Te Wiki o Te Reo Māori

By Karen Hughes

The Whanganui Regional Museum is extending its opening hours on Thursday 17 September, inviting the community to enjoy an evening of activities celebrating Te Wiki o te Reo Māori.

From 5pm to 8pm, visitors can take part in a range of hands-on, creative and cultural activities, with opportunities to learn something new, have a go and enjoy te reo Māori discovery in a relaxed setting.

"We want to create a welcoming space where people feel comfortable having a go and trying something new, whatever their level of experience," says Timara Wallace, Kaiwhakaako Māori/ Māori Educator at the Museum.

"You can watch or jump in and have a go. There's no pressure to stay with one activity either — the sessions are flexible, so people can move in and out, follow their interests and participate in whichever way suits them."

There will be plenty to discover throughout the evening. Te Wānanga o Aotearoa will host a hands-on raranga session, introducing participants to the traditional Māori art of weaving and plaiting using native plant materials such as harakeke.

Timara Wallace will lead a session of waiata and kapa haka, giving visitors the opportunity to join in with the singing.

Natasha Priddle, Pou Mātauranga/Team Leader Education, will lead a creative session combining whakataukī and light art, and Tania Te Huna will read from her book Kūaka ki te Ao/Godwits to the World. Other demonstrations and performances involving poetry and rangatahi speakers are planned.

Visitors are encouraged to come along for as much or as little of the evening as they like. Whether it is trying raranga for the first time, learning kapa haka actions, exploring light art or more, there will be plenty of opportunities to participate.

A full schedule of activities is available on the Whanganui Regional Museum website at wrm.org.nz/events.

The evening runs from 5pm to 8pm on Thursday 17 September at Whanganui Regional Museum.



Timara Wallace. *Photo credit: Karen Hughes, Te Puni Tiaki Taonga o Whanganui/Whanganui Regional Museum*

All activities are free. Koha and donations warmly welcomed.

Te Wiki o te Reo Māori is an opportunity for everyone to celebrate te reo Māori and its place in Aotearoa — and the Museum invites the community to come along, have a go and enjoy an evening together.

Essential Māori Greetings

- **Kia ora** – Hello / thank you / be well
- **Haere mai** – Welcome; come here
- **Haere rā** – Goodbye (to someone leaving)
- **Ka kite** (anō) – See you (later)
- **Tēnā koe / kōrua / koutou** – Formal greetings to one, two, or three+ people
- **Ata mārie / Mōrena** – Good morning
- **Pō mārie** – Good evening

Everyday Useful Words

- **Āe** – Yes
- **Kāo** – No
- **Kei te pai** – I'm fine / all good
- **Aroha** – Love, compassion
- **Whānau** – Extended family
- **Tamariki** - Children

TE WIKI O TE REO MĀORI

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Maimoatia te Reo Māori.

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Thursday 17 September | 5–8pm

5.00pm
Mihi Whakatau

5.30pm
Raranga — Flexispace
Waiata/Kapa Haka — Atrium
Whakatauki Light Art — Davis Theatre

6.15pm
Kūaka Ki Te Ao (Godwits to the World)
Reading and kōrero with Tania Te Huna — Davis Theatre

6.45pm
Raranga — Flexispace
Waiata/Kapa Haka — Atrium
Whakatauki Light Art — Davis Theatre

7.30pm
Rangatahi speeches — Davis Theatre

All activities are free. Koha and donations are warmly welcomed.



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TE WIKI O TE REO MĀORI 14—20 HEPETEMA 2026

Māori Language Week reomaori.co.nz 14–20 September 2026

Join the Hīkoi Mō Te Reo Māori/Māori Language Week parade on Wednesday

As part of Te Wiki o te Reo Māori/Māori Language Week from 14 to 20 September there will be a Hīkoi Mō Te Reo Māori/ Māori Language Week Parade on Wednesday, 16 September.

Supporters are asked to gather at the Whanganui City College fields by 9.45am in time to depart by 10am. Led by the Rātana Band (only the second time it has performed in the centre of Whanganui) the group will walk along the Avenue to Majestic Square, arriving by 11am. From 11am to 12.30 there will be live entertainment at Majestic Square.

There will be kura/ schools, ECE's, kohanga reo, community organisations, local businesses and anyone else who would like to take part. Everyone is welcome to come and join the parade.

Funding for the parade was obtained through the Te Reo Towns Activation Fund to encourage and celebrate te reo in their town, their way. "Te reo Māori grows stronger when it's seen, heard and spoken in our everyday lives," says Ngahiwi Apanui-Barr, Chief Executive of Te Taura Whiri, the Māori Language Commission.

"From ki-o-rahi tournaments to kapa haka concerts to reo Māori exercise classes, we're excited to see hapori (communities) come together across Aotearoa to show their aroha and commitment for our indigenous language."

There is also a lunchtime Te Wiki webinar series. Across four days, you can hear from those who are helping to normalise and strengthen te reo Māori in everyday life, from grassroots sporting communities and intergenerational language revitalisation to business leadership and storytelling on screen. Visit reomaori.co.nz.



The key organisers of the Parade - From left Jo Maguire, DP St Johns Hill School, Mitzi Madden, Lead Teacher Keith Street School and Raewyn Harrison of Te Reo Tuatahi.

Common expressions to practice

Some common expressions are:

Aroha Mai!
Sorry/excuse me!

Ngā mihi nui
Thanks so much

Haere rā
Goodbye
(speaker is staying)

E noho rā
Goodbye
(speaker is leaving)

Mā te wā
Bye for now/see you later

Kia pai te rā
Have a good day.

Piki mai ki Whanganui
Welcome to Whanganui

Kei te pēhea koe?
How are you?

Kei te pai
Good

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TE WIKI O TE REO MĀORI 14—20 HEPETEMA 2026

Māori Language Week reomaori.co.nz 14–20 September 2026

Tania Te Huna's te reo Māori language journey

Tania Te Huna was born in Motueka and raised by her maternal grandparents. After they passed she went to live with her parents and siblings in Blenheim before moving to Christchurch in the early 70's. She says, "I grew up not knowing my language, my culture, my past. I didn't really know that I was Māori."

She had a childhood friend that was a year or so younger than her. When her friend started school they were excited to spend time together. As her friend ran to meet her, some of the children stopped her and called out 'you can't play with her – she's black.' "When my grandfather heard, he pulled me out of school." Tania subsequently seldom attended schools and being one of eight children, there was no formal home schooling.

In 1995, she went down to Invercargill where her father lived. "I started asking him questions about who he was, where did I come from and about te reo Māori as he was a teacher of the language. He told me I needed to go home – "to the Whanganui River."

Tania had virtually no connection with Whanganui but in 1998 she came here with her two young children, enrolling her youngest at Te Kōhanga Reo o Pūtiki Wharanui. When it was time for her to attend school, the Kohanga Reo staff encouraged Tania to enrol her at the nearby Kura Kaupapa and offered her a position of employment at the Kōhanga.

Tania started working and started learning te reo slowly. In 2001 she attended her first immersion language hui. She progressed quickly to studying full time at Te Wānanga o Raukawa in Ōtaki. This led to her doing marae-based studies up river at Parikino marae.

The Ātaarangi teaching method using Cuisenaire rods appealed to her and it gave Tania much more confidence. "My tutors encouraged me to go to the Ātaarangi teaching training course in Hamilton. It emphasized the need to learn my iwi dialect and stories." After completing the course and earning her teaching certificate, Tania came home and joined the Whanganui Wānanga under Chè Wilson, Turama Hawira, Naani Waitai and Esther Tinirau.

"I studied Whanganui History in te reo Māori, pretty much full time. We spent time on each of the marae up river through to the mountain. It was important being there, where historic events took place."

Since 2005 Tania has taught te reo in the community using the Ātaarangi method and incorporating local iwi history. Her focus in the last few years have been researching and promoting the bar tailed godwit (the kūaka) for which her group won the NZ Geographic Society's award. She has also composed proverbs which can be read in the bus shelters at Trafalgar Square.

Her learning of the Māori language, culture and history "has confirmed to me who I am, where I am from. The reo has been a journey of discovering our oral histories, genealogies (whakapapa), and traditional stories of tāngata whenua (people of the land). I share as much as I can with my mokopuna because I want them to know 'who they are and where they come from.'

"I have loved my journey."

Tania Te Huna



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Āwhina has given te reo Māori to the next two generations of her whānau after ancestors were punished for speaking Māori

Pain teaches people what to avoid. Āwhina Twomey, a respected advocate for te reo Māori and te Ao Māori, knows her own whānau members were strapped by teachers for speaking Māori from 1908 until 1956. To spare their own children, they all stopped passing the language on. This long-used strategy was used to kill indigenous languages worldwide.

Āwhina explains, "You associate the pain with the language. They didn't want their children to be strapped too, so Mum, like most native speakers, spoke English to us. We were raised without our language."

At Whanganui Girls' College she took Māori as a subject. With no teacher, she studied by correspondence tapes until Shirley McCormack began visiting twice a term. The result was very basic written te reo Māori.

Her dad, Joseph Twomey, who was legally blind, started her next journey when he joined Te Ataarangi classes at Rangahaua Māori Studies, Whanganui Polytechnic. Because Te Ataarangi used coloured Cuisenaire rods, Āwhina went 'as his eyes'. After a few months, Joseph left feeling his sight was holding others back.

Āwhina was studing carving course at Rangahaua when Morvin Simon invited her to enrol on his full-time reo Māori course in the next building. She joined his class in 1993. Their "reo Bible" was Te Reo Rangatahi, Volumes One and Two. Morvin taught sentence structures through rote learning, using English as the base language.

Unlike her mother, Putiputi, Āwhina was not punished physically for using te reo, but people still questioned her path. When someone asked, "What are you going to do with that?" she replied, "Talk to my grandparents!" Her goal: to speak with her grandparents' generation on her Mum's side, as her Dad's whānau had already lost their language.

The next year, while carrying soon-to-arrive-pepe Ngāhuia, Āwhina was summoned to a week-long Total Immersion Hui at Te Tikanga Marae. Her uncle, Te Pikikōtuku Kereama, and her cousin, Sean Odgen were facilitators. Both were first-generation students of Te Wānanga o Raukawa, the country's first Māori University.

Although Āwhina could read and write fairly well by then, conversation was harder: "I couldn't decipher or compose sentences fast enough in my head."

She loved the immersion but struggled: "I couldn't understand what was happening most of the day… I was drowning."

When Āwhina awoke on day four, 'a veil had lifted', and she could understand everything. "It was amazingly reo, empowering!"

On the way home, Āwhina promised, "My child's first language will be Māori. I will speak Māori ONLY to baby, so baby can have what I didn't get - my language as a birthright"

It's a commitment she has remained true to for 32 years; raising three children and a grandson as Native Speakers of te reo Māori, and she only speaks te reo to her other three mokopuna too. She was still living with her parents when her eldest daughter, Shaia, was born in 1986. Kōhanga Reo had just started; Shaia's grandmother, Putiputi, felt it was now safe to kōrero. Putiputi and Shaia spoke Māori only to each other for years, making Shaia a Native Speaker.

Āwhina joined every Total Immersion circuit she could, continuing to learn even after becoming a kaiako. Her children mainly attended too, and she later joined a circuit with Sir Tīmoti Kāretu, author of Morvin Simon's 'reo Bible'. These circuits, and her promise to her children's reo, kept her in Total Immersion most days.

In 2004, Sir Tīmoti and Sir Wharehuia Milroy founded Te Panekiretanga o Te Reo Māori, an elite, invitation-only, language institute for fluent speakers of Māori. Āwhina decided to 'stalk' Sir Tīmoti for an invitation, and was pleased to find she was already on his list.

She started in 2006 and graduated in 2007, continuing monthly seminars with Sir Tīmoti, Sir Wharehuia and Professor Pou Temara until Te Panekiretanga closed in 2019. She also lobbied successfully for other whānau, including Shaia, to be invited.

Te reo Māori has taken her around the world, hearing the same or similar stories of language loss, helping other indigenous cultures reviving their languages, and extending her education in other Mātauranga Māori fields.

Āwhina has assisted thousands to discover and grow their Māori language, but most importantly to her, she has given te reo Māori to the next two generations of her whānau, and looks forward to cementing it in her third and future generations.

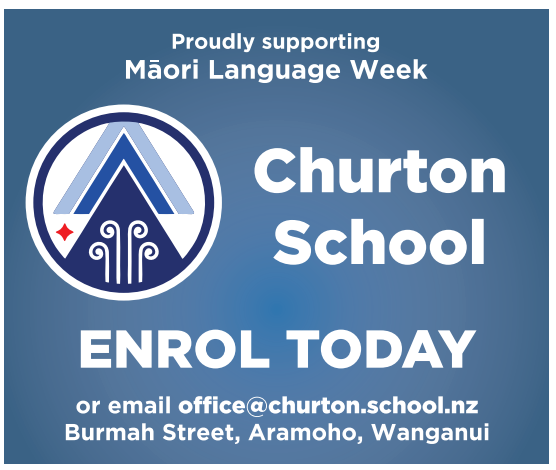


Āwhina speaks te reo Māori only to her mokopuna, Eruera, Paerangi-Rehua, Whaimarama and Nikora. She will do the same for her great grandchildren too.

Counting in te reo Māori

1 Tahi	11 Tekau ma tahi
2 Rua	12 Tekau ma rua
3 Toru	13 Tekau ma toru
4 Wha	14 Tekau ma wha
5 Rima	15 Tekau ma rima
6 Ono	16 Tekau ma ono
7 Whitu	17 Tekau ma whitu
8 Waru	18 Tekau ma waru
9 Iwa	19 Tekau ma iwa
10 Tekau	20 Rua tekau
	21 Rua tekau ma tahi









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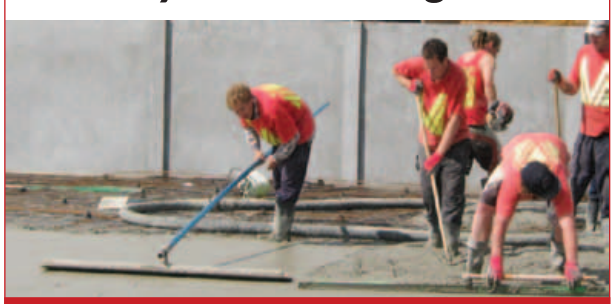

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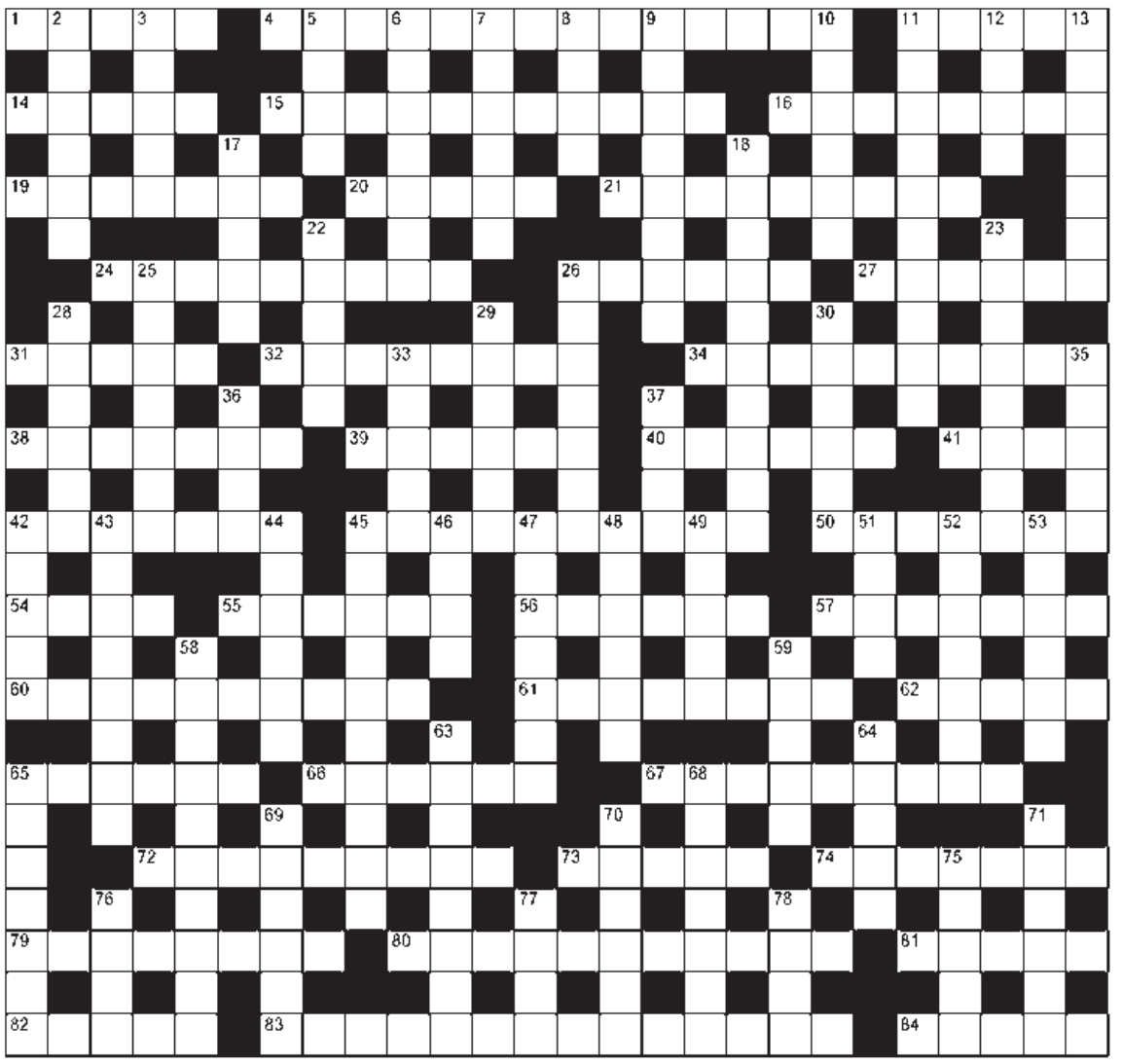
Jumbo crossword

ACROSS

1 Bottomless pit (5)
4 Kin member (3,2,3,6)
11 Cove (5)
14 Scandinavian goblin (5)
15 Vulnerable to (11)
16 Cold ants (anag)(8)
19 Progress (7)
20 Minister's house (5)
21 Putting money into (9)
24 In reverse (9)
26 Petty details (6)
27 Energy (6)
31 Boredom (5)
32 Verbal onslaught (8)
34 Everlastingness (10)
38 Mocked (7)
39 Communicate silently (6)
40 Removes grime (6)
41 Skin growth (4)
42 Suspended (7)
45 Evaluation (10)
50 Race official (7)
54 Deafening (4)
55 Small wave (6)
56 Mountain chains (6)
57 Aquatic plant (7)
60 Firmly ingrained (4-6)
61 Burnished (8)
62 Counterfeit (5)
65 Grip (6)
66 Undresses (6)
67 Frothy cold drink (9)
72 Put right (9)
73 Around (5)
74 Glossy coating (7)
79 Lifted (8)
80 Met halfway (11)
81 Liberated (5)
82 Chuckle (5)
83 Change of resolve after considering again (6,8)
84 Feel (5)

DOWN

2 Hair cutter (6)
3 Cold dish (5)
5 Common sense (4)
6 Fruit farm (7)
7 Keyboard operator (6)
8 Heinous (4)
9 An ocean (8)
10 Sailboats (6)
11 Aims (10)
12 Go first (4)
13 Small child (7)
17 Slightly sticky (5)
18 Withdrawal from position or occupation (10)
22 Fundamental (5)
23 Dejected (8)
25 Droll (7)
26 Latticework (7)
28 Girl's name (6)
29 Engaged man (6)
30 Alters (6)
33 Journeys (5)
35 Go in (5)
36 Fronded plant (4)
37 Spots (4)
42 Perforated (5)
43 Queasy (8)
44 Stringed instrument (6)
45 Trainee (10)
46 Meat dish (4)
47 Abrades (7)
48 Old laundry appliance (6)
49 Requirements (5)
51 Layer (4)
52 Oar rest (7)
53 Come forth (6)
58 Dangerous maniac (10)
59 Type of lizard (5)
63 Damaged or impaired by age (4-4)
64 Cereal crop (5)
65 Hide (7)
68 Prickling (7)
69 Sneaks (6)
70 Hired male companion (6)
71 Weigh (6)
75 Courage (5)
76 Meal list (4)
77 Expectorate (4)
78 Retained (4)



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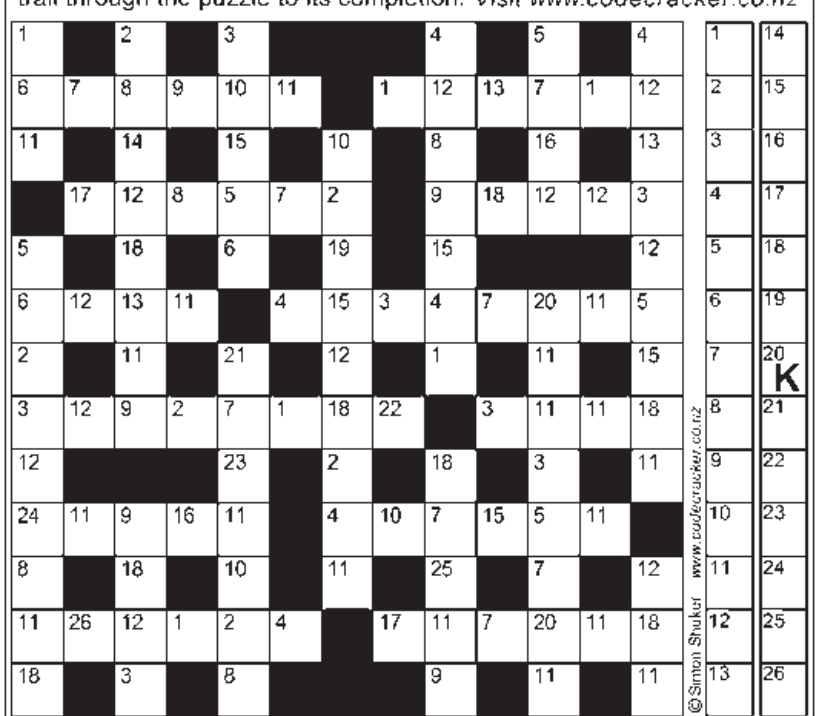
SIMON SHUKER'S CODE-CRACKER Extra 924

EACH number in our Code-Cracker grid represents a different letter of the alphabet. For example, today 20 represents K, so fill in K every time the figure 20 appears. You have one letter in the control grid to start you off. Enter it in the appropriate squares in the main grid and solve the starter word. Fill in other squares in the main and control grids with the found letters and look for the next word. Follow the word trail through the puzzle to its completion. *Visit www.codecracker.co.nz*



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

Sudoku

					1	5		
3			8			6		
7	1	6				2		8
2				9	4	3		
		9	5	3				1
6		7				4	5	3
		1			7			2
		2	6					

HARD

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.

Previous solution

3	1	7	4	9	8	2	6	5
6	2	9	5	1	3	7	4	8
8	4	5	2	7	6	1	3	9
1	8	4	7	3	9	6	5	2
9	7	6	8	5	2	3	1	4
2	5	3	1	6	4	9	8	7
4	9	8	6	2	1	5	7	3
5	6	2	3	8	7	4	9	1
7	3	1	9	4	5	8	2	6

Previous solution

1 C	2 A	3 P	4 J	5 U	6 G	7 S	8 T	9 R	10 W	11 O	12 H	13 I
14 B	15 Y	16 Z	17 E	18 L	19 N	20 K	21 F	22 D	23 Q	24 V	25 M	26 X

All puzzles © The Puzzle Company
www.thepuzzlecompany.co.nz

Previous crossword solution

ACROSS: 1 Ample, 4 Sanskrit, 9 Walrus, 14 Drone, 15 Point the finger at, 17 Suave, 18 Get, 19 Isthmus, 20 Blistered, 21 Tutors, 24 Midwinter, 25 Absorb, 26 Pigsty, 29 Tenderness, 31 Tie, 32 Beggar, 33 Daze, 35 Nil, 37 Etna, 39 Outermost, 40 Meteorite, 41 Sushi, 42 Coventry, 47 Gratuity, 51 Adult, 55 Aggrieved, 56 Earthworm, 58 Urge, 59 Ell, 60 Seam, 61 Madrid, 62 Lei, 63 Disrespect, 66 Little, 67 Sniper, 69 Aggressor, 72 Visual, 73 Samaritan, 75 General, 77 Doe, 80 Erode, 81 Take in one's stride, 82 Never, 83 Snaked, 84 Daydream, 85 Learn.
DOWN: 2 Moonscape, 3 Lunch, 5 Axel, 6 Skillet, 7 Registration, 8 Terse, 9 Witness, 10 Last, 11 Uranus, 12 Songs, 13 Destiny, 14 Deposit, 16 Thunderbolt, 22 Silent, 23 Origami, 24 Mediate, 25 Agents, 27 Swahili, 28 Batter, 30 Sari, 32 Bliss, 34 Elegy, 36 Root, 38 Two, 42 Claps, 43 Vagrant, 44 Nail, 45 Reveal, 46 Ruled, 48 Aimlessness, 49 Usurper, 50 Tag, 51 Adoring, 52 Teller, 53 Irritability, 54 Shed, 57 Oyster, 64 Commander, 65 Cluster, 66 Leading, 68 Plaited, 70 Glamour, 71 Lagoon, 72 Verve, 74 Asked, 76 Eyrie, 78 Teak, 79 Feta.

5x5

S		A		E
	A		I	
A		O		T
	O		A	
H		L		Y

Insert the missing letters to complete ten words — five across the grid and five down. More than one solution may be possible.

Previous solution

S	H	A	R	P
L	A	M	E	R
A	L	I	V	E
M	A	G	U	S
S	L	O	E	S

SPCA Cupcake Day
September 16 2026
Register NOW
www.cupcakeday.spca.nz

SPCA Cupcake Day on Wednesday - register now to help raise funds

The local SPCA says about their Cupcake Day, "We'd love you to join us in making this the sweetest one yet." Wednesday 16 September is the nationwide bake sale day, but if that doesn't work for you, that's OK – just pick a day that does."

The SPCA Cupcake Day started way back in 2009 and is a major source of funds alongside their annual appeal 'Fill the Bucket' in October and the sale of their calendars, soon to be available to buy.

"Cupcake Day is an opportunity to sign up to raise essential funds and awareness for SPCA New Zealand and make a big difference for the animals we care for," says Francis Fils-Pryce, Centre Manager.

A highlight will be the cupcake stall outside the SPCA Op Shop at 63a Victoria Ave from 10am until sold out. Expect to choose from a huge variety of delicious cupcakes with a good range of individuals including volunteers and staff, groups and businesses donating cupcakes such as Whanganui New World, Sweet St Gluten free Bakery and Good Bitches Baking.



Cyprus Hill, SPCA Community Support Officer and Francis and Harry outside the SPCA Op Shop.

Individuals can sign up and sell to family and friends by visiting cupcakeday.spca.nz. It doesn't have to be just cupcakes as supporters are also making other sweet treats as well as cupcake themed soaps. There will also be 'Pup Cakes' for dogs. Francis says, "The aim is to have fun while making a difference for the animals."

If another business would like to participate by donating the proceeds of a particular product or by running your own Cupcake Day promotion through your business, the local SPCA would love to hear from you. "We also have resources available to help make it easy for you to get involved."

By fundraising for Cupcake Day, your support can help SPCA to give thousands of animals a second chance at life such as Harry, in the picture. Harry came into SPCA care with his siblings due to his family being unable to feed them. He is now looking for a new home.

Sign up to sell cupcakes on cupcakeday.spca.nz



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Proud to support the
SPCA Cupcake Day
and all the incredible work the SPCA do for animals in our community.
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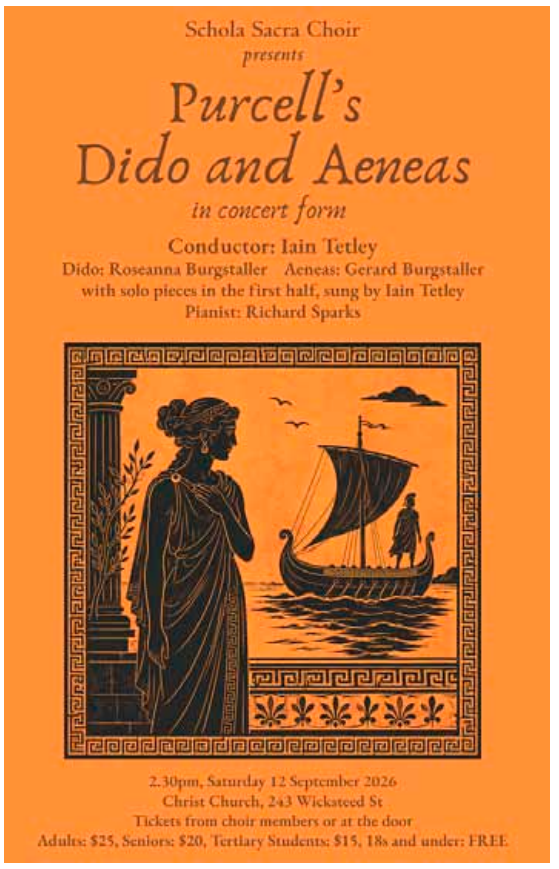
Schola Sacra brings Purcell's masterpiece to life

Schola Sacra Choir will present a concert performance of Henry Purcell's baroque opera, Dido and Aeneas, on Saturday, 12 September, at 2.30pm. The performance takes place at Christ Church Anglican Church, 243 Wicksteed St, Whanganui.

Composed in the late 1680s, Dido and Aeneas is one of the earliest known English operas. The story is based on Book IV of Virgil's epic Roman poem, the Aeneid. It follows the tragic romance between Dido, the Queen of Carthage, and Aeneas, a shipwrecked Trojan hero travelling to found a new empire in Italy.

In the operatic version, an evil sorceress and her coven plot the downfall of Carthage. They send a spirit disguised as the god Mercury to trick Aeneas into leaving. Heartbroken by his impending departure, Dido chooses to reject him when he offers to stay, ultimately dying of grief. The work concludes with the famous aria, "Dido's Lament," a sombre piece of classical music.



The upcoming production will be conducted by Musical Director Iain Tetley and accompanied by pianist Richard Sparks. The first half of the concert is dedicated to a selection of solo pieces performed by Tetley, who is an accomplished tenor.

The second half transitions into the concert performance of the opera itself. Choir members of the Burgstaller family lead the cast, with Roseanna Burgstaller singing the role of Dido, Gerard Burgstaller portraying Aeneas, and Helena Burgstaller appearing as Dido's sister, Belinda. Other members of the choir will step out of the ensemble to fill the smaller supporting roles.

Tickets are available directly from choir members or at the door ahead of the performance. Admission prices are $25 for adults, $20 for seniors, and $15 for adult students. Children and youth under the age of 18 can attend free of charge.

Whimsical tales of old Wanganui

Dad's army



By Murray Crawford

"BACK TO ITS ONE-TIME GLORY" headlined the Chronicle (5 August, 1940). "COOK'S GARDENS RESERVE. THE MILITARY ON PARADE."

Cooks Gardens, by then Wanganui's central sports ground, was the training venue for the National Military Reserve, coming closer, according to the Chronicle, to the circumstances which gave it its name than at any time since colonial forces were stationed there 80 years previously.

The Chronicle then repeated the popular myth concerning the naming of the reserve by erroneously stating: "Back in 1860, and in the days when the Seventh Royal Irish Regiment was in the settlement of Petre, units of the army were camped not far from where units of the Reserve paraded yesterday. The cook of the military camp in 1860 had his gardens not far away, and the name, 'Cook's Gardens', has remained ever since." (Cooks Gardens were named after Captain Cook).

"Commands rang out on the oval yesterday just as freely as they ever did in the days when a military cook watched his vegetables, the better to feed the troops and keep up the standard of the menu in the officers' and the sergeants' mess."

The soft turf on Cooks Gardens was a welcome relief, as against the hard asphalt of Queens Park. Bayonet drill was described as lively, but some aspects of training were a challenge.

"Getting down to the prone position for firing was a more serious test for some whose waistlines have not been all they should have been these last few years. 'What does it feel like?' asked a corporal of a rather stout private, who was struggling to rise. 'Going down it's like it always was,' the private replied, 'but getting up on a man's stomach is like rolling out the barrel."

One officer suggested that cushions would have been a most welcome addition: "He had three buttons to sew on his trousers the night after," recorded the Chronicle.

But it was all worthwhile – well, for some: "Several men had lunch at the Victoria Hall, tea being supplied by the Women's Division of the Farmers' Union."



Reward for a hard day's training

Alcoholics Anonymous
Phone 0800 229 6757. If you have a drinking problem maybe we can help. AA Wanganui area meeting list: Sunday, St Johns Lutheran Church Hall, 51 Liverpool Street, Wanganui, 9am; Monday, Friendship Hall, Morris Street, Marton, 7.30pm; Tuesday, St Johns Lutheran Church Hall, 51 Liverpool Street, Wanganui, 12.30pm; Wednesday, St Luke's Church Hall, 34 Manuka Street, Castlecliff, 7.30pm; Thursday, St Johns Lutheran Church Hall 51 Liverpool Street, Wanganui 7.30pm; Al-Anon (family support) Fridays, Gonville Library meeting room, 12.30pm. Ph 0508 425 266.

Art Over East
Come and have a go… ! At St James Church Hall, Whanganui East on Mondays, 9.30 – 1.30pm. A chance to learn that's affordable for all. All skill levels welcomed. Support as you need it. $5 each day you come, no subs. All mediums used. Facebook - Art Over East. Open day coming up… Watch this space… Contact Dora 022 068 1113, Sandy 021 0877 1987 or Gordon 022 584 9542.

Do You Have Questions About the Bible?
Come and join us at the Christadelphian Hall on Tuesday night at 7:30pm for Bible-based discussion and a cup of tea. All are most welcome. 138 Great North Road. Email: wanganui.ecclesia@outlook.co.nz / www.thisisyourbible.com

Free Confidential Advice - Whanganui Citizens Advice Bureau
120 Guyton Street. Trained volunteers offer advice on issues including Consumer Rights, Employment, Immigration, Neighbourhood problems, Personal and Family, Health, Tenancy and Housing. Contact us on (06) 345-0844 or email at whanganuicab@gmail.com. We are here to help you.

Healing Rooms
Do you need Christian prayer for Healing? Healing Rooms are open from 1.30pm to 3.30pm, every Wednesday in the Upper Lounge at Christ Church Community Centre, 243 Wicksteed Street. No appointment necessary and no charge. For further information, contact Mary on 022-152-5306.

MIST Mental illness Survivors Team
203 Victoria Ave, open 9.30am to 3.30pm Monday to Friday. Closed statutory holidays. A place to share activities and socialise. We offer activities, acceptance and support.

NZ Society of Genealogists – Whanganui Branch meeting:
Alexander Heritage and Research Library Monday 14 September, 6.45pm — Speaker: Lisa Lightband, — "How AI knows what it knows for Genealogy" (Postponed from July) Door opens 6:15pm. Non-members $3

Peace Day 2026
Come and join us at Handspan on Monday 21 September for a short peace vigil at noon. All welcome.

Poultry Group
meets this Saturday 12th September at Mathieson St hall. 12pm start. Hens, roosters, bantams, ducks, pigeons, chicks, eggs for sale. Eggs to eat or hatch. A chance to talk to friendly poultry breeders. Cuppa and pikelets after 12.15pm. Produce table. $2 entry charge, children free. Enquiries ph 3458718

River City Artists
meet every Thursday 9.30-4pm, 243 Wicksteed Street, Christ Church Lower Hall. Artists of all levels, beginners to experienced. All mediums covered. Air-conditioned rooms. Painting fee $10.00 per week. Facebook River City Artists, www.rivercityartists.co.nz. Contact Val 027-459-9448 or Sue 0210-484-035. You're welcome to come and have a look around.

Rivercity Pickleball
Still wondering what this pickleball is all about? You are welcome to come and have a look. Our usual club sessions at Jubilee Stadium are Sundays 4.00pm-6.00pm, Wednesday 9am-11am, Thursday 6pm-8pm. To have a go - beginners must register: email rivercitypickleballnz@gmail.com

Schola Sacra Choir
presents Purcell's Dido and Aeneas in concert form, also solos by Iain Tetley. Accompanied by Richard Sparks. Saturday 12 September, 2.30pm Christ Church, 243 Wicksteed St. Tickets at the door, $25 waged, $20 unwaged, $15 students, U-18 free.

This Week at Wisdom Is Yours
Monday Hatha Yoga 5:30pm Grounding breath, gentle strength, and a calm start to your week. Tuesday Flow Day Qi Gong 9:30am - Yin Yoga 5:30pm Wednesday Qi Gong 5:30pm A peaceful mid-week reset through mindful movement. **Saturday 12th September** Pop-Up Koha Qi Gong Gentle with Rebekha, intuitive movement to reset the body and calm the mind. 59 Victoria Ave Whanganui 063455002

U3A Whanganui
Our September lecture by Scotty Moore, Biodiversity Ecologist is on the subject of how, by working together, we can eliminate predators of our native birds and enhance our urban neighbourhoods so as to once again see hear and enjoy the presence of native birds in our midst. This lecture will be held in Room 2.15 of UCOL, Rutland Street at 10.00am, Friday September 11. Entry by Koha

Wanganui Country Music Club
meets this Sunday 13th September at Highland Pipe Band (Hall 1E Bell St.) Concert from 1pm to 4.30pm, join us for a relaxing afternoon in a friendly, warm environment. Great band and singers, raffles available with afternoon tea provided. Door entry members $5, non members $6. Club days are the 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month. Enquiries to Terri 021 420 069.

Whanganui Spiritual and Awareness Centre
Join us Sundays 7pm at the Quaker Meeting House, 256 Wicksteed St. Experience guest speakers and mediums, a healing meditation, raffle and supper. Connect, reflect and enjoy uplifting company. Koha appreciated. Everyone welcome. See our Facebook page for details or call 027 697 6308.

Whanganui Film Society
Monday 14 September 7pm: EVIL DOES NOT EXIST (2023, PG violence) A quiet rural community faces corporate development in this meditative eco-drama from Ryusuke Hamaguchi. Davis Theatre, Watts St. Members only. Join at nzfilmsociety.org.nz/whanganui.html

What's On Notices
What's On in the Community notices are $10 for up to 50 words with the option of a colour heading for an extra $2 and/or a border for an extra $10. Contact River City Press, 52 Ingestre Street, Whanganui, by Tuesday 2pm to place your advert.

River City Press
email: rivercitypress@xtra.co.nz
phone 345 3666
52 Ingestre Street, Whanganui

Bridge Club results

Whanganui Bridge Club results week ending 7 September

Monday Championship Pairs: **N/S** 1. T & O Jones 58.92 2. J Lupton S Kuehne 58.41 3. R Collins H Elgar 57.10 **E/W** 1. A Hodges L Rowland 61.68 2. B Bull K Coombe 57.41 3. R Rawson E Topfer 52.26 **Winners of Monday Championship Pairs**: Barbara Bull & Kevin Coombe

Tuesday IMPs Leaders after Round 8: 1. R & D Nightingale K & P Verhoek 116.04 2. G Paulger N Bartrum A Thirtle G Handley 98.70 3. J Dodds P Paterson R Lakeland G MacLachlan 94.79

Wednesday IMPs Leaders after Round 4: 1. R Campbell C Winton T Gunasekara R Ansell 60.62 2. K & S Rainey R Terrey B Eriksen 57.43 3. C Rothman L Lilly B Anderson G Walker 35.29

Wednesday Social: **N/S** 1. P Paterson A Thirtle 56.85 2. C van Mesdag-McGregor W Hodges 56.25 3. J Hore J Dodds 54.76 **E/W** 1. B Franklin-Browne N Kennedy 60.42 2. B Bull A Sutherland 56.85 3. W Duncan N Gale 56.55

Friday Social: **N/S** 1. D Haynes P Paterson 61.01 2. S Cvitanovich K Moore 59.82 3. P & M Oyston 56.99 4. J Botting C Pepperell 55.65 5. A Thirtle G MacLachlan 54.76 6. A Bennett D Price 53.27 **E/W** 1. V Baillie C Chesswas 67.03 2. J Newman W Hodges 55.63 3. N Kennedy C Raisin 54.40 4. J Jones I Newbold 54.12 5. J Kay R Lakeland 53.02 6=. A Foley J Wagstaff 51.79 6=. B Franklin-Browne J Dodds 51.79



Sadly passed away recently...

Geoffrey Ray GILSENAN,
on 3 September 2026, aged 72 years.
Mary Rita GOODEY,
on 3 September 2026, aged 87 years.
Rowena Trieste MARTIN,
on 5 September 2026, aged 54 years.
Erueti Paora PARANIHI,
on 5 September 2026, aged 92 years.
Gwennith Ruth RODIE,
on 4 September 2026, aged 92 years.
Euphemia Janet May TUTAKI,
on 7 September 2026, aged 81 years.
Helen Eunice WALDEGRAVE,
on 4 September 2026, aged 103 years.
Colleen Cushla WILSON,
on 6 September 2026, aged 81 years.

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2027 Emerging NZ Glass Artist Award



2025 Recipient Nick Blackwood Reddie. ***Photo by Jade Letheuil***

The Lyndsay Patterson Foundation invites entries for the 2027 Emerging NZ Glass Artist Award, celebrating and supporting emerging artists working in glass.

The biennial award was established to encourage, foster and promote excellence among emerging New Zealand glass artists.

A total of $11,000 in prize money is available. Ten finalists will be selected, with one receiving the $10,000 Emerging NZ Glass Artist Award. In addition, Lyndsay's children, Ryder and Eden, will select one finalist's work to receive the $1,000 Ryder & Eden Patterson Award.

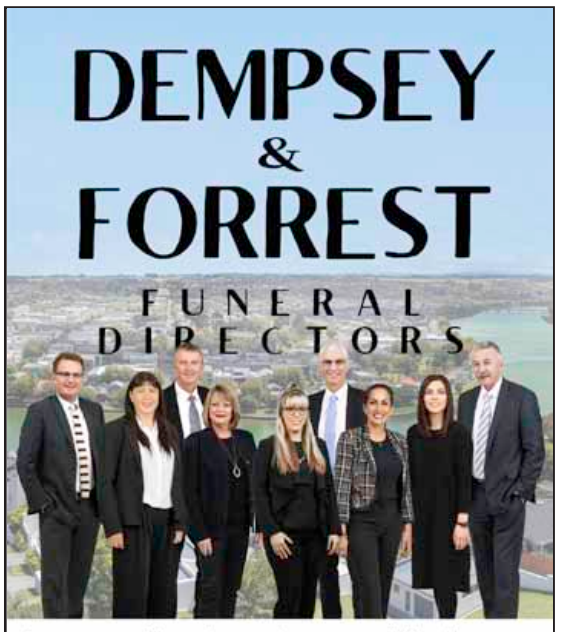
The main award is intended to support the recipient's ongoing development and career as a glass artist.

Ten selected finalists will be invited to send their work to Whanganui for exhibition. They will be selected based on the quality of the work submitted, the potential of the artist's emerging practice, and the impact the Award could have on their future development.

The judging panel comprises Jo Conroy and Bruce Patterson of the Lyndsay Patterson Foundation Board of Trustees, Andrew Clifford, Director of Te Whare o Rehua Sarjeant Gallery, and glass artist David Traub.

Entries close on 5pm, Friday 12 February 2027 and the finalists will be advised on Friday 19 February The Exhibition will be from 13 to 21 March 2027 at the Whanganui Community Arts Centre, with an opening and Awards Evening on Thursday 18 March 2027, 5.30–7pm

For more information email: LPF@outlook.co.nz FB/Instagram: @LyndsayPattersonFoundation



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PUBLIC NOTICES

SECTION 101
SALE AND SUPPLY OF ALCOHOL ACT 2012

Waimarie Whanganui Enterprises Limited, 1a Taupo Quay, Wanganui has made application to the District Licensing Committee at Whanganui for the **issue of an On Licence (conveyance)** in respect of the vessel known as the **Paddle Steamer Waimarie**, which operates from 1a Taupo Quay, Whanganui.

The general nature of the business conducted under the licence is tourism conveyance.

The days and hours during which alcohol is sold under the licence is **Monday to Sunday, 8.00am to 12.00 midnight.**

The application may be inspected during ordinary office hours at the office of the Whanganui District Licensing Committee at 101 Guyton Street, Whanganui.

Any person who is entitled to object and who wishes to object to the application may, not later than 25 working days after the first date of the publication of this notice, file a notice in writing of the objection with the District Licensing Committee at DLCadministration@whanganui.govt.nz.

No objection to the licence may be made in relation to a matter other than a matter specified in section 105(1) of the Sale and Supply of Alcohol 2012.

This is the second publication of this notice.

The notice was first published on September 3, 2026.

PUBLIC NOTICE

TUNE into City Magic 106.9FM from this Sunday. Saturday's 9am gardening, segments on negotiation, Sports, Radio Countdowns. Sunday's 8am children's requests, 9am Woman to Woman, 12pm Dick Clark. Sunday's 5pm feature artist. American Top 40s, community events, weeknights, 9.15am Wednesdays and Fridays - drama, music documentaries. Feedback 021-216-0886. Broadcasting from Durie Hill.

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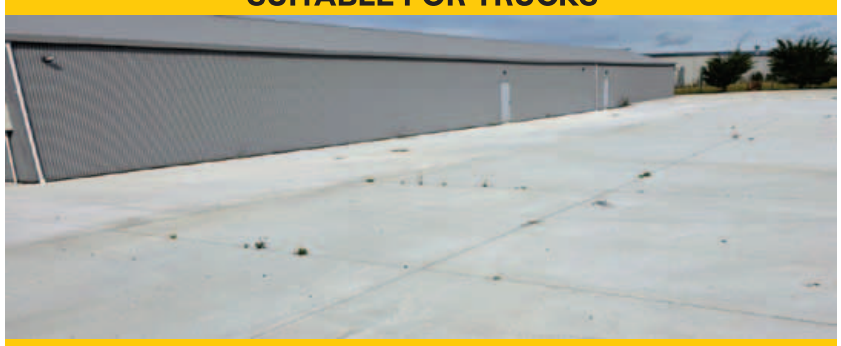

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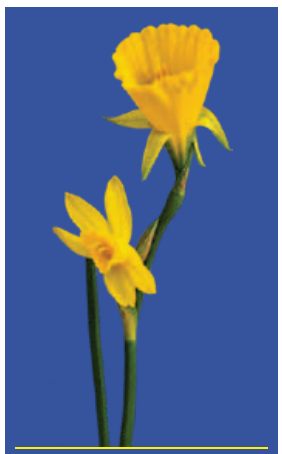

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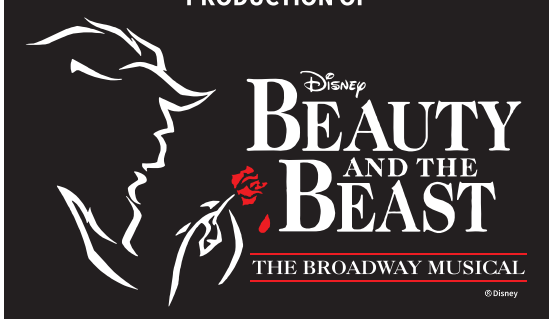

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Wednesday 30th September
5pm at
13 Rangitatau East Road, Kai Iwi

AGENDA

1. Karakia
2. Apologies
3. Matters Arising from Previous Minutes
4. Chair's Report
5. Finance Report
6. Trustee Elections
7. TKOR Paepae update
8. Marae Strategic planning
9. General Business
10. Karakia Whakamutunga

Shared Kai to follow.

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SPORTS NEWS

Local Squash Masters team gearing up for NZ Masters champs to be held in Whanganui



From left: Matt Nation, Kent Darlington, Daniel Potter, Paul Tuffin & Matt Ratcliffe

A massive congratulations to the Whanganui Squash Masters team of Matt Nation, Paul Tuffin, Matt Ratcliffe, Kent Darlington and Daniel Potter, who, for a third year in a row, took out the NZ Masters Squash Club Team competition at the start of the month.

With this year's competition up north in Whangarei, the team headed there as reigning champs and the Number One seed over arch rivals Tawa Squash club from Wellington who they had beaten 4 nil the last two years.

The team got their campaign off to a great start, defeating the Whangarei team #2 with wins going to Nation, Tuffin, Darlington and Potter. Next up was the Manurewa #1 team, the 4th seeds in the semi-final, and with Tuffin sitting out, Nation, Darlington, Ratcliffe and Potter all recorded wins again to take the tie 4-0.

So it was on to the final against the 2nd seeds Tawa again for a third year in a row to see who would take out the best NZ Club Masters team title. Up first, Darlington playing at number four in the lineup, beat Andrew Smith in a close three sets 11/7, 12/10, 11/8, even after being down in the 2nd set 10-8 game ball, so it was a great start for the team as any three set win is crucial in case of a set countback with the four-man team setup.

Up next were the number three's, and this saw Whanganui's Matt Ratcliffe v Tawa's Damon Winter play each other. This turned into a huge battle, and Winter reversed an earlier loss at the Wellington Masters tournament a few weeks earlier to win 11/13, 11/7, 6/11, 12/10, 11/7 to even up the tie for the Tawa team.

On third were the No. 1s, and Whanganui's Matt Nation dominated Tawa's Matt Green 11/5, 11/5, 11/3 to swing things back the way of the top seeds with a 2-1 lead. This actually meant that the Whanganui team were safe, as even if they did go down in the last match, they actually had enough sets for a 2-2 tie, with Ratcliffe picking up the two sets in his five set loss.

However, Whanganui's number two Paul Tuffin had other ideas as he went on to play the last match against Tawa's number two Sam Atkins. In what turned out to be an entertaining and fun-shot rally match, it managed to go the distance into the fifth set, where both players decided to really lift the intensity.

Tuffin was looking like he was down and out late in the piece but pulled off a couple of cracking shots at 9 all in the fifth set to take it out 6/11, 11/7, 11/8, 4/11, 11/9. This ended up allowing Whanganui to win three matches to 1 overall and complete the three-peat win for 2026!

Matt Nation has just returned from competing in the World Masters in Perth, with wins against Thierry Blandin De Chalain from Mauritius and Jason Patmore from Australia, then losing to 2nd seed Samuel Kang from Singapore. Now, all the Whanganui players will be gearing up for the massive NZ Masters individual and team championship, which is going to be held in Whanganui from the 16th – 20th of October. The individuals run for the first three days (Fri – Sun), and the teams event over the next two days (Mon – Tues), which sees districts have a team of 12 (six men, six women) compete against other districts from around the country.

Martin Pennefather, member of winning Over 60's NZ Cricket team

The Over 60s Cricket World Cup was held in August in Toronto, Canada, with games of 45 overs. There were 14 teams divided into two pools before the top two teams in each pool proceeded to a semi-final.

The New Zealand team won their pool, winning all games, then defeated Pakistan to reach the final against England, who defeated Australia in their semi-final. Unfortunately, rain washed out the final, leaving both teams as joint champions.

Martin Pennefather, who played in all the matches as a lower-order batsman and spin bowler, says, "We claimed a moral victory as we had beaten England in pool play."

Martin, who teaches at Westmere School, says, "The weather was good – warm and muggy. The grounds and pitches were also good, although they lack pavilions. Cricket is growing very rapidly in Canada, supported especially by people who have migrated from the Indian sub-continent." Martin believes Canada could become a powerhouse of world age cricket in another 20 years.

Most of the Canadian and American teams were made up of players whose origins came from India, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka." Having noted that, the New Zealand team had players of Sri Lanka, Zimbabwe and English origins.

Martin believes that a major reason for their success was in the preparation. This included a pre Cup series in Australia, the support of a physiotherapist (he plays for the NZ over 50's cricket team) and the organisation led by the captain. "It was the best prepared NZ team that I've been involved with."

Players were expected to conduct their own training, and Martin thanks 26-year-old son James for "spending many hours giving me throw-downs and hits from April to July."

The trip was self-funded, including air fares, accommodation and tournament fees. Martin also had to get leave without pay for the three weeks.

Martin along with his wife Jacqueline and later, son James, spent time in Vancouver on the way there and Houston on the way back. There was also time to do some sightseeing, such as going to a Toronto Blue Jays baseball game and visiting Niagara Falls, which Martin describes as "one of the coolest things I have done."

Martin has attended previous World Cricket Cups in Chennai, India and in Sydney. He is uncertain about whether he wants to continue, but has committed to playing another season with the Whanganui United Cricket Club.

One lesson he takes out of continuing to play age-group cricket is showing perseverance to the students he teaches. "You are never too old to chase your dream."



Martin Pennefather in action

Marching display a success



The Team: Jeanette, Renay, Debbie, Teresa, Megan, Germa, Maria, Sam, Angie, Sheryl, Lesley, Julie, Alana, Rangimarie, Belinda

On behalf of Broadway United, we would like to pass on our thanks for your generous support of our Marching Display Day at Springvale Stadium in Whanganui on the 29th of August 2026.

Your donation played a huge role in making our event a great success.

Our Display Day was not only incredibly successful, but it also brought together former marchers and the community for a fantastic social sports event.

We are very delighted with the end result and are happy to share that the proceeds will contribute to our travel arrangements and accommodation for the North Islands in Napier later this month and the Nationals in Rotorua in March 2027.

Your support helps us to continue to do what we love and put marching back on the map. We truly appreciate your contribution.

Thank you once again for being a valued part of our community.

We look forward to staying connected and hope to work together again in the future!

With much thanks,

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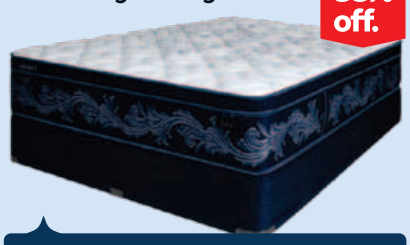

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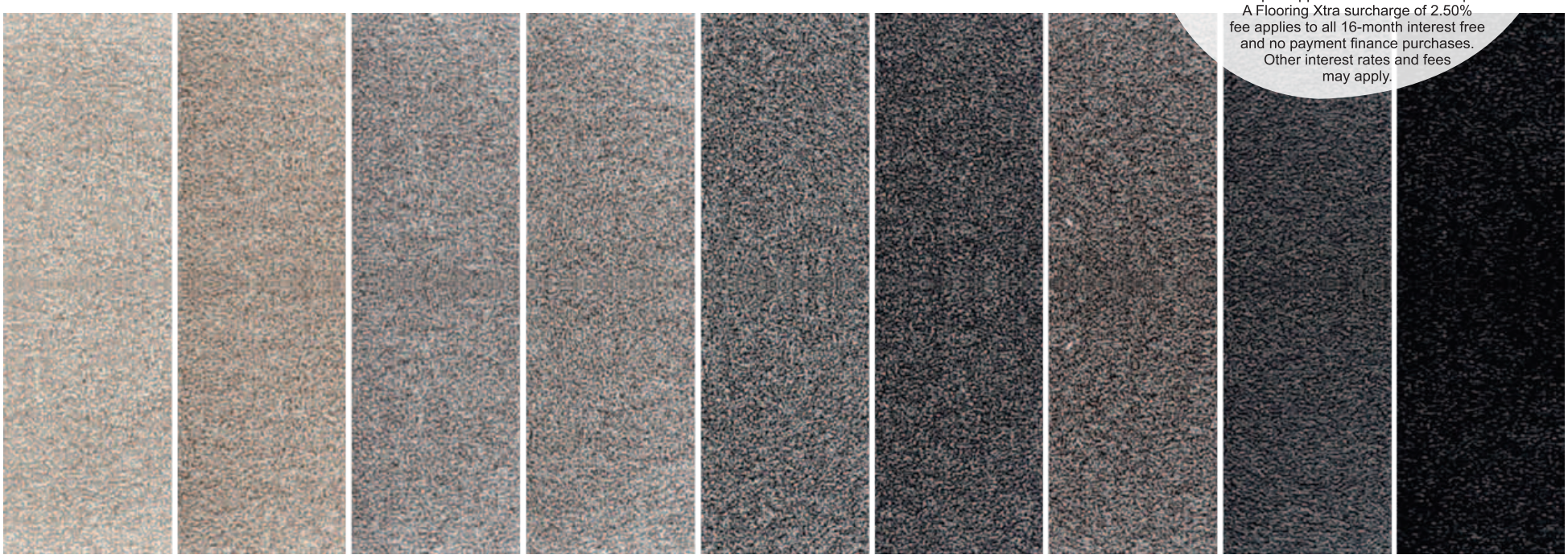

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