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Riding in a Mongolian horse race – the longest in the world

BY DOUG DAVIDSON

Lauren De Vincentis has loved horse riding since she was very young, which is just as well as she has recently competing in the 'Mongol Derby' – "the longest horse race in the world at 1000km, which you have to complete in 10 days."

"I read about it in a magazine when I was about 17," she says. "Another Kiwi woman had completed it in 2013." So, in 2024, Lauren signed up to go into the vetting process, sending photos and a video "to prove that I was a competent rider, before being interviewed." She was one of 45 selected.

Her entry was for August 2026, which gave her time to prepare – not only to ride in a few local endurance events – the longest of 40km - but also to save up for the $US17,000 fee.

After living in Whanganui and studying vet nursing here, Lauren now lives in Kāpiti as a tattoo artist, owning her own studio.

Mongolia is bordered by China and Russia, and is known for vast, rugged expanses and nomadic culture. Its capital, Ulaanbaatar, centres on Chinggis Khaan (Genghis Khan) Square, named for the founder of the 13th- and 14th-century Mongol Empire. Lauren advises that "it is the coldest capital in the world, with temperature going down to minus 40." The temperatures in August for the ride, however, averaged 33 to 35 degrees – "the hottest summer in 10 years."

Mongolia is "becoming known as an adventure capital." The Equestrianists Adventure Company, based in the UK, run the Mongol Derby as well as the "GAUCHO Derbo 500 in Patagonia, Argentina.

After flying from Auckland to Beijing in China and then on to Ulaanbaatar, Lauren was met by the company for an eight hour bus trip to the remote area for the ride. As the course is unmarked, all competitors were given a pre-loaded GPS and shown how to operate it.

On any one day, you could ride up to 30 horses, which were available from the regular stations representing the homes of families who provided 50 to 100 horses each. Lauren explains, "Having horses is part of their culture and nomadic lifestyle. The semi-wild horses are amazingly fit, adaptive, smaller but very strong. You do need to be calm and control your emotions as the horses are very sensitive to mood changes."

Lauren learnt this when one horse flipped her off. "It wanted to bolt all the time, and I wasn't letting him. It hit some sand; I rolled off uninjured. He bolted for 20km."

Lauren brought anti chaffing pants and jodhpurs. Apart from changing undies, she wore the same clothes. This was partly because "you had a limit of five kilos to carry – so a sleeping bag, a blow-up pillow and some snacks. You also had a compulsory water pack of eight litres, and I took every opportunity to keep it filled."



Lauren, Joe and Jess at the finish line.

Accommodation was in a Ger or Yurt complete with showers and outdoor washing facilities. "We were fed good solid food. Dinners consisted of heavy meat and dairy-based stews. The meat was mutton or goat, beef and horse. We got very few vegetables apart from some carrots and spuds. Watermelon was the main fruit. One day I couldn't handle the food and so ate a packet of lollies instead." You could buy local snacks.

They had plenty of noodles and had mare's milk. "It was fizzy, quite strong. I didn't want to risk it so didn't drink much." She avoided any sickness until day nine – food issues and exhaustion – but still rode 130 km that day.

Lauren started in last place but moved steadily forward. She rode with Hannah from Wales who has become a lifelong friend, and Joe, "the most amazing horse rider I've

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Time: Depart from Whanganui War Memorial Centre at 8.15am, returning approximately 6pm.
Join the Friends of the Sarjeant Gallery for an art excursion to the Wairarapa, visiting Aratoi Wairarapa Museum of Art and History, followed by an exclusive visit to the Rototāwai Homestead, Gallery and Gardens. Note: Parking is unavailable at the War Memorial Centre on this occasion. Numbers are limited. To book, call 06 349 0506 or scan the QR code.
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Overnight closure on Dublin Street Bridge tonight

Dublin Street Bridge will be fully closed overnight on Thursday, 17 September while repair work is carried out on two damaged overhead bridge braces.

The bridge will close to all vehicles, pedestrians and cyclists from 9.00pm on Thursday 17 September, and is expected to reopen by 6.00am on Friday 18 September at the latest.

The closure follows assessment and measurement work carried out in August. Engineers have confirmed the bridge remains safe for public use, but two overhead steel braces need to be repaired.

The braces are large, complex steel structures, and the repair work requires specialist equipment, a safe working area and enough space for contractors to work above and around the bridge. A full closure is necessary to keep workers and the public safe while the repairs are carried out.



"We know a full bridge closure will be inconvenient, particularly for people travelling through the city at night, and we really appreciate everyone's patience," says chief infrastructure officer Lance Kennedy.

"Because of the size and complexity of the steel braces, this work can't safely be done while the bridge is open. The overnight closure gives the team the space they need to carry out the repairs safely and efficiently, while keeping disruption to a minimum.

"We'll reopen the bridge as soon as the work is safely completed, and no later than 6am. We ask everyone to allow extra time, use an alternative route and follow the traffic management in place."

The repairs are being delivered through the Whanganui Alliance, with the council and NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi funding the work.

The damage to the braces was reported on 31 July. The cause has not been confirmed, although one possibility is that a tall vehicle may have struck the braces.

Drivers are reminded that the bridge has a clearly marked 3.7m height restriction, as well as weight restrictions.

If you notice any damage to the bridge, please report it to Police or NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi as soon as possible. If there is an immediate safety concern, call 111.

To make a report to NZTA, please use this link: www.nzta.govt.nz/contact-us/complaints/commercial-operator-complaint-form

Driving offences can also be reported to Police by calling 105.

Riding in a Mongolian horse race – the longest in the world



Lauren on horseback.

ever met. We had a symbiotic relationship."

Continued on page 2

Continued from page 1

"He couldn't read GPS, so we did that for him, but he was there to rescue us when we got into trouble."

On one occasion, "Hannah got bucked off her horse, and the horse bolted. Joe chased it down." Near the finish line, they were joined by another rider, Jess from Australia, and all four of them crossed together to be equal eighth. For the honour they received "a prestigious ribbon."

About half the riders retired because of heat stroke/exhaustion, injury, or broken bones ("everyone came off at some stage."). Lauren was one of only eight riders who were not injured.

The ages were interesting. The youngest was 23, most were in their 20s and 30s, and Joe was 68. He had already completed the Groucho Derby in February.

While it took Lauren four years to save up the US$17,000 (part of that amount went to the families along the route), "I loved it so much that I would do it again."

If you are interested, the next event starts on August 3, 2027, and now costs US$19,000. (over NZ$32,000 at current exchange rates)

Your First Aid training specialist

Would you know what to do if someone was injured? Links Training currently offers levels of first aid training for individuals or workplaces. Businesses are welcome to attend their public classes, all of which are NZQA assessed.

Public classes are run at venues throughout the lower North Island, including Whanganui, Palmerston North, Levin, Kapiti, Masterton, and Wellington. The next Whanganui class is scheduled for Tuesday 29 September or Thursday 29 October. This eight-hour class will enable individuals to have the skills and confidence to assist during a medical emergency.

Electrical Workers

Knowing how critical it is for Electrical Workers to renew their compliance on time in order to continue to practice, Links also offers an electrical compliance programme.

The Electrical Workers Registration Board (EWRB) requires all electrical workers to ensure their ECT CPR/BFA is current at the time of their practicing licence expiry date. This training consists of four hours of ECT training with two hours of CPR and basic first aid.

As an EWRB training provider, Links in conjunction with *Upstage Electrical Training, aspires to deliver as many training opportunities as possible to meet this requirement. The next EWRB Whanganui date is Wednesday 28 October, and Links recommends booking early to secure a space. Other venues and dates can be found on their website.

Whatever your training needs, Links Training has it covered. www.links-ltd.co.nz



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The Benefits of Having More Than One Pair of Glasses



By Student Dispensing Optician Rebecca Simpson

Your lifestyle, prescription and daily activities all influence what eyewear works best for you. If you find yourself constantly adjusting your glasses or struggling to see comfortably at certain distances, it may be worth considering whether one pair is really enough.
A single pair may not always keep up with the changing visual demands of modern life.

We often expect one pair of glasses to do everything. We wear them for reading, working, driving, shopping, watching television and spending time outdoors. However, our eyes face different demands throughout the day, and sometimes one pair simply cannot do it all.

Think about your daily routine. You may need a clear, wider field of view when working at a computer, sharp distance vision while driving, and comfortable close-up vision when reading a book. Add bright sunlight, changing light conditions and long hours on digital devices, and it's easy to see why one pair may not meet every visual need. Lenses can be designed to suit different activities and visual needs. Reading glasses can provide comfortable close-up vision, while dedicated computer glasses can be tailored to your screen distance. Prescription sunglasses can make outdoor activities more comfortable while protecting your eyes from bright sunlight.

Progressive lenses are a great everyday solution for people who regularly move between distances. However, a dedicated pair can still be beneficial for specific tasks or visual needs.

Ultimately, it's about having the right visual support for the activities you do every day. Sometimes, better vision simply means having the right glasses for the right moment.

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Whanganui Creative Space joins the Fun Palaces art weekend

Te Whare o Rehua Sarjeant Gallery will make room for Creative Space Whanganui as part of **Fun Palaces: The Laboratory of Fun**, taking place in Pukenamu Queens Park over 16-18 October, when the arts and culture precinct will celebrate 'art for the people'.

It is one of multiple sites in the precinct, including the hub, Fun Palace, on the War Memorial forecourt. You're invited to come and create with a team of Whanganui Creative Space artists, with no judgement: it's art where anything goes.

Whanganui Creative Space is a perfect fit for the Fun Palace concept; inclusivity and accessibility are at its heart. Art for everybody is one of Creative Space's core goals.

Sam Moran, part-time tutor and board member, says, "We'll have all sorts of materials to get creative with. We'll show you how to make a zine in our workshops. It will be fun for people to actually be in the Sarjeant and creating." The zines were an idea from Brydee Rood, Whanganui Creative Space art tutor.

The team will show off their skills and encourage the community to get into action! A zine is a small-batch, self-published booklet that offers a fun, hands-on way to share art, ideas, and stories using simple materials like paper, collage, and ink. You can jump right in and collaborate with the Creative Space team on a shared piece, or start creating a zine on your own, with all the tools, guidance, and inspiration provided. There will also be painting, some more collage, and sketching etc.

Zines are an easy, affordable way to express your ideas and passions creatively. Much like Whanganui Creative Space, based on the second floor at 76 Guyton Street, make it easy for people from all walks of life to connect with their creative side. Neurodiverse clients and people with mental health issues find the workshops at Creative Space an imaginative outlet.

One of the classes Whanganui Creative Space hosts on a Thursday evening, Sam says, "Is for anybody in the community. It's a paid class, $10 per person. And the people who have come along so far tend to be working mums, people who don't often have time to make space for themselves. "You can take it home and finish your sketch." And a lot of what I hear is, 'I just won't have time at home.'"

The Fun Palaces concept, with its array of creative offerings, is just that too, a haven of space and time to create.

The Fun Palaces Whanganui Creative Space workshops will take place on Friday 16 and Saturday 17 October from 10:30am - 12pm and from 1:00pm – 2:30pm.

Repair Café and Small Talks will also be a part of the Fun Palaces experience, alongside a raft of local individual creatives. Fun Palaces is not just a unique way to unlock creativity, it's a time to celebrate our little city with a lot of soul that brims with not just art, but generous people who want to share their experience with you.

In more **Fun Palaces news**, there is a room dedicated to plasticine. That tactile material that has the magical quality of banishing stress and building creativity. Also Fun Palaces are Upcycling your trash, making Trashion - costumes and junk instruments from rubbish in preparation for our Sunday Parade, and much more.

Fun Palaces is also seeking volunteers to help on the day - especially people to help her turn trash into fashion. Think of it as a prequel to the Fun Palace event, where you get to unleash your creativity. Keen to volunteer? Contact Renee email: artsforgoodnz@gmail.com.

Check out: https://www.facebook.com/funpalaceswhanganui/ for more information



Artwork created at Creative Space. Join the workshops on Friday 16 and Saturday 17 October from 10:30am - 12pm and from 1:00pm – 2:30pm

New pop-up art exhibition in Guyton St

Whanganui Creative Space has a new Pop-Up Exhibition, a collaboration with the building manager of 76 Guyton Street. In response to the empty shop fronts on Guyton Street, art tutor Brydee Rood proposed to brighten up one of them up with a temporary exhibition. Permission was granted by the building owners for a Pop-up window exhibition, displaying the vibrant paintings of the artists who go to Creative Space.

Brydee says, "We've had some great feedback around this already. Our community has expressed delight in seeing their artworks on display at street level in the empty shop."

Whanganui Creative Space also has an exhibition exploring monochromatic paintings at the Yellow House Cafe for the month of October. They plan to have a fresh changeover of artworks in the Guyton Street window pop-up exhibition to coincide with the Yellow House exhibition too.







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Celebrating local writers with events this weekend



Joan Rosier-Jones

Whanganui District Library is inviting local people to get 'Booked for the Weekend', in a celebration of local writers. The city has long been a haven for New Zealand writers; Janet Frame and Robin Hyde to mention just two.

The new breed cover genres from poetry to fiction; history to scriptwriting. They are:

• Award-winner, Airini Beautrais, opens proceedings with a talk about her life as a poet over the last twenty or so years.

• Carmel Hurdle, author of Husbandry for the Single Woman, will demonstrate some of her work in Africa and read one of her tales, soon to be available on a podcast.

• Writer and graphic artist. Desmond Bovey will be interviewed by Wellington's Jane Westaway, about his beautifully illustrated, Tongariro National Park: an Artist's Field Guide.

• Joan Rosier-Jones will discuss the true-crime book, The Murder of Chow Yat.

• Memoirists Val Cowan and Albert Sword chat with Paul Brooks, while dramatists Shona Wilson and Polly Pyefinch will explain the behind-the-scenes drama of writing and directing plays.

• If gardening is your thing, pick up hints from gardeners, Phil Thomsen and Terry Dowdswell.

• Writers with works-in-progress will give a glimpse into what is coming up, among them Marie Greenbank with her work about life on the Ahu Ahu Ohu.

You can meet the authors at the Grand Opening with Mayor Andrew Tripe. Opening: Davis Library, 18 September 5.30pm. Meet the authors over drinks & nibbles. All other events are at the Alexander Library 19-20 September. ADMISSION FREE

Times

Saturday 10.00-11.00am Airini Beautrais A Poet's Life; 11.30am-12.30pm 'Open Minds Works-in-Progress'; 1.30-2.30pm, Carmel Hurdle – 'A wealth of Experience in Africa'; 3.00-4.00 pm, Desmond Bovey, with Jane Westaway 'Art & the Environment.'

Sunday 10.00-11.00am, Joan Rosier-Jones discusses 'The Murder of Chow Yat, an unsolved crime.'; 11.30am -12.30pm, Shona Wilson & Polly Pyefinch take us through the dramatic process; 1.30-2.30pm, Phil Thomsen & Terry Dowdeswell 'The joy of gardening.'; 3.00-4.00pm, Valerie Cowan, Albert Sword, with Paul Brooks 'Writing a memoir.'

Jazz jam session this Sunday



Riwai Hina

As the weather gets warmer, the sun shines longer, and everything begins to bloom, Porridge Watson brings you a better excuse for socialising on a Sunday.

This month's band will be a collective led by Dave Griffiths on bass, Michael Franklin-Browne on drums and Sanji Gunasekara on keys with Chris Salmon on guitar, Joe Kennedy and Ken Chernoff on saxophones and Riwai Hina on Trombone, with guest musicians and community participation provided by you.

Perform with the band or sing, clap and dance with the audience and keep Jazz a regular event on Whanganui's social calendar.

The ongoing monthly International Jazz Day (IJD) jam sessions are made possible through the dedication of participating musicians, the continued growth and appreciation of the audience and the support of Porridge Watson's owner, Tony Sundman, who forgoes a cover charge and will be creating mulled wine especially for the occasion.

Come out and meet up with friends, old and new and enjoy an afternoon of warm hospitality, camaraderie and musical adventure.

Sunday 20 September at 4:00-6.00pm @ Porridge Watson, 30 Drews Ave.



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Davis Library

OPENING CELEBRATION | 5.30-6.30pm

Mayor Andrew Tripe welcomes our local writers. Come and join him as we celebrate the opening of the weekend.

Admission is FREE, but registration with the library is recommended to ensure a seat.

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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.

Practical Wetland Wānanga brings freshwater expertise to Whanganui farmers

Farmers and rural landowners interested in wetlands, water quality and practical options for their farms are invited to attend a Wetland Wānanga being hosted by the Whanganui West Catchment Group on 25 September.

The event will feature freshwater ecologist and wetland specialist **Dr Rebecca Eivers of Wai Kōkopu Consulting**, who will share practical experience from wetland projects across New Zealand.

Originally from a sheep and beef farm in Tairāwhiti/Gisborne, Dr Eivers completed her BSc and MSc at the University of Canterbury and PhD at the University of Waikato. Her work focuses on freshwater ecology, wetland restoration and water quality, working alongside farmers, landowners, iwi and communities to find practical solutions that support both productive landscapes and healthy ecosystems.

The Wānanga will explore how both constructed and natural wetlands can be used on farms to improve water quality, manage sediment and nutrients, reduce E. coli, manage water flows and provide habitat for native species.

A key focus of the day will be helping farmers understand how to identify **"the right wetland, in the right place, for the right reasons."**

Rebecca will talk through different types of wetlands and where they can be most effective, including constructed treatment wetlands, sediment ponds and filtration wetlands. She will also discuss restoring existing drained or degraded wetlands and share some of the lessons she has learnt from projects that have worked well – and some of the problems farmers can avoid.

Following the morning session, participants will head out for practical farm visits, including a visit to Harriet and Dave Eade's farm in the Westmere area.

Their property is located in the headwaters of a stream system that eventually flows to Kai Iwi Beach. Participants will be able to look at two different wetland restoration sites – one that has been planted during the past year and a new site that has recently received funding for restoration.



A previous wetland field day

This will provide an opportunity to take the morning's discussion into the paddock and look at the practical considerations involved in planning, establishing and managing wetlands on a working farm.

The day is designed for farmers and rural landowners, whether they already have a wetland, are considering restoring one, have a wet or poorly performing area of the farm they are wondering what to do with, or simply want to better understand the opportunities wetlands may offer.

The Whanganui West Catchment Group is one of the local groups within the Collective, bringing farmers, landowners and community members together to better understand and improve the streams and waterways flowing through the western Whanganui catchment.

The Wetland Wānanga is an opportunity to learn from specialist expertise, see local examples and talk with other farmers about what might work on their own properties.

Registration is essential. For further information and to register, visit the Wetland Wānanga event page:

https://www.facebook.comevents/1086489933885213/

Upcoming films in the Latin America & Spanish Film Festival

Friday 18 September @ 4pm: **El Benny**. This is a 132 minute fictional account from Cuba of Cuba's legendary jazz vocalist, Benny Moré, who careened through life, alcohol and women, driving crowds wild with his mastery of every Cuban musical style from boleros to mambos.

Friday 18 September @ 7pm. **A World for Julius**. This 104 minute drama from Peru is about an upper-class boy growing up in 1960s Lima as he grapples with loss of innocence as he encounters an adult world marred by inequality and injustice.

Saturday 19 September at 7pm. **Close Your Eyes**. This is a 169 minute drama from Spain. Twenty years after a famous actor mysteriously vanishes from a film set, a TV programme revives the case, seeking answers from the director, his family and others who knew him. It was listed among the best films of 2023 by several major film journals.

All film are shown in the Davis Theatre and are free to watch. They are all subtitled in English.

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Join the mental health awareness cruise next month

John Sturmey of Glow Aotearoa is organising his second Mental Health Awareness Cruise after the first one two years ago was a success.



It will be on World Mental Health Day on 10 October and includes all types of vehicles. All welcome. They will meet at the Whanganui Racecourse from 7 to 8am and take off at 8am sharp, heading north before stopping at Manaia.

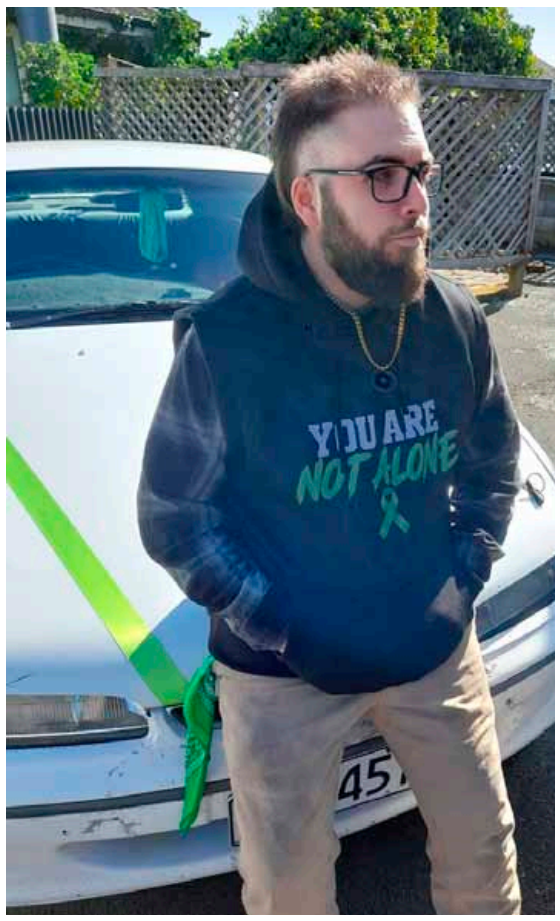
Taking the Surf Highway 45, they will continue up the coast to view the Cape Egmont Lighthouse. Lunch will be at Ōakura at Butlers Reef restaurant. There will be a fuel stop in New Plymouth, if needed, before returning to Whanganui via the inland route, arriving in time for dinner at the Boatshed Café & Bar from 6.30pm.

John says, "This is not just a cruise; it is a movement. Together we can raise awareness, make an impact on the stigma and show support for mental health in a safe, fun and inclusive environment. Connect with like-minded people, celebrate your journey and make a real impact on the lives of others."

John grew up with mental health issues and says he went down a "dark road," but he sought help, and now combines his love of cars, music and design to start a 'Mental Health Support group of Motor Head enthusiasts.' He encourages others to see an interest in vehicles as a good coping mechanism.

He has developed a range of merchandise including hoodies through to stickers, which he encourages people to put on their vehicles. He says, "It will have a ripple effect, bringing people together, providing a voice." If you want to purchase some merch, go to 'Mental Health Awareness Cruise 2026' on Facebook and then from the host page to one of the other sites shown.

Looking to the future, John is thinking of organising a cruise towards the Manawatū and a 'Cruise for Charity Day focusing more on the Whanganui region.



John, wearing a hoodie of his design.

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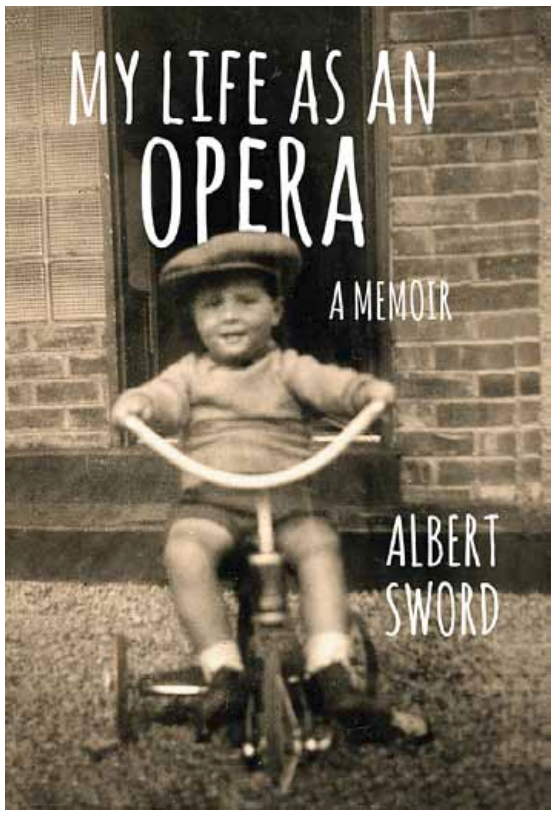
Meet the man behind the book "My Life as an Opera - A Memoir by Albert Sword"



Published by Tangerine BooksNZ, 2025
Reviewed by Paul Brooks

Ever the performer, Albert Sword treats his personal story as a musical drama in four acts, complete with Overture and Postlude. He is on stage in all four acts, singing like a canary – to coin a phrase more often used in crime stories. Still, almost apt.

He starts at the very beginning – his birth – and gives it the full comedic treatment. I have never read a funnier beginning to a life. The story ends early, in terms of Albert's lifespan so far, but he packed an awful lot into those few years and he shares plenty of it with us. It's funny, personal, scarcely edited, and a delight to read.

Like all biographies, auto or otherwise, the objective is to do more than establish a timeline and pin events to it. The hero must relate to his reader, somehow, and at times represent us, giving us a vicarious helping of the protagonist's just deserts, sometimes with two esses. Albert does that. We feel as he feels, mostly, and we quietly cheer for him, again, mostly.

In an autobiography one assumes the author is well acquainted with the protagonist and would like the reader to be so too. But, not completely, and perhaps not intimately, yet Albert seems hesitant to draw the line. We are privy to that which many an autobiographer might merely hint at, or not mention at all, because Albert is no shrinking violet on the page. His literary courage makes for illuminating reading. Did his brother, Gerry, know how many beans Albert was prepared to spill? And did he cringe in response? Apparently not, according to Albert. He was just surprised Albert could write!

Albert has the ability to mock himself, that's plain, and he uses humour to amuse the reader and minimise his own accomplishments. He has always done that, so to see it in his memoir comes as no surprise.

Unlike some life stories, My Life As An Opera is not heavy on scene-setting narrative, but we feel like he is confiding in us, giving us 'the goss'. It is evidently far from Albert's intention to distance the reader from the tale, but, instead, get close and whisper behind the open hand. You've got to love him for it.

No biographer has control over the life lived, but they can, should they so desire, manipulate the memory or the perception of that life by deleting, highlighting, exaggerating or glossing over aspects of the truth. I don't think Albert has done this. His life, up to the point he takes us, is an open book, literally, for our own close inspection. His persona is larger than life anyway, so there's certainly no need for operatic hyperbole or overacting, and I can't imagine he would employ any of the other aforementioned techniques to delude the reader. The hamming he leaves to real life.

My Life As An Opera is a fine work, worthy of a read by anybody, whether you know Albert Sword, or not. When you've finished reading, I think you'll want to meet him.

Albert, along with fellow memoir writer Valerie Cowan, will be talking with Paul Brooks about memoir writing and their work in particular this Sunday afternoon at 3pm in the Alexander Library, as part of Booked for the Weekend, a celebration of local authors.

Unique artworks in 'Our Journey' exhibition at Community Arts Centre



Peter Shepherd with his sculptural moas

'Our Journey' is an exhibition of a difference and will appeal to art lovers as well as those curious about creativity in action. It is a combined exhibition of daughter – Alyssia Anderson and father – Peter Shepherd.

Peter's work will be known to many, especially his large sculptural creations of moa, rhino, elephant and a giraffe (actually giraffes, as there are two). They need to be seen and admired and if you have some spare cash and a large garden, to buy. They will impress anyone who sees them.

But the exhibition is very much about beginnings to where they are now. Peter started making doll furniture for his two daughters – our of steel - "that is my thing." Peter had an after-school job making steel furniture, which became a full time job, until he went farming … and then took up an adult apprenticeship in boiler making.

He has an old candlestick on display. In 1992, when the family moved to a large property in Westmere and started cleaning up the garden area, he dug up a candle stick, which he immediately recognised as the first one out of hundreds he had sold in Whanganui.

There are plenty of other different even zany pieces worth inspecting, such as the large copper insects, the 'ordinary' dining chair with a large saw as part of its back and some impressive lampstands. The one with a French horn in its design is a must for anyone with an interest in brass musical instruments – and lampstands.

Then there is a metal screen which is a summary of 250 years of New Zealand history items, overseen by Ruapehu in the background. Not to forget, there are also two wearable art pieces which Peter submitted to WOW and got to stage 2 of the acceptance process.

Now for something completely different. Alyssia has loved dolls since her days with Barbies. Now she makes her own dolls, working with fabric, doing hand sewing and painting. There are some interesting characters such as the Three Blind Mice, better than any cartoon version, a King and Queen, the jester and 'King Forggie.'

There is also a large collection of bugs, dragonflies, snails, Lord and Lady Rabbit – all in colourful fabric and the likelihood that you will end up smiling.

Don't forget to vote for the People's Choice award, which could get you a $100 voucher from the Boring Gallery.

Most of the items are for sale, but as both Alyssia and Peter say, "It is our passion to create. We do it because we enjoy it."

The exhibition opens on 18 September and goes through to 4 October, with opening hours 10am to 4pm.



Alyssia Anderson with some of her creative stuffed dolls



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International Day of Peace



The recent vigil for Nepal at the Handspan Sculpture

By Kate Smith, Co-worker, Peace Through Unity

25 years ago, 11 September was International Peace Day, the opening day of the United Nations annual General Assembly meeting.

In fact, I was on my way to listen to the Peace Bell being rung at the United Nations building when I was directed to the UN basement to await evacuation from the building.

It was then decided to have a fixed day for the celebration, and 21 September was chosen.

Handspan Peace Sculpture in Pukenamu, Queen's Park, Whanganui, was unveiled on Peace Day 2002, and since then, a vigil of a minute's silence has been observed there each year at noon. This happens all around the world at noon local time.

All are welcome to attend this next Monday, 21 September, at Pukenamu and contribute, should they wish to participate, by adding a prayer, observation or other wish for peace in the world.

It seems that this is needed now more than ever.

The Handspan Sculpture was the location where local communities of Nepal recently gathered for a candlelit vigil following the recent destructive flood in Nepal.

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Interschool Cross Country Results

A big thank you to everybody who attended the 34th Annual Interschool Cross Country Event.

We had some incredible runners come to compete from near and far, a big congratulations to all who qualified for inter school and came and gave it their all, that already is a huge achievement in itself!

It was another successful event, with over 500 children from 34 schools who competed in this year's Interschool Cross Country.

A big thank you to all the children, the schools and the families.

Our sponsors, our awesome team and the Aranui Community. All our helpers, our organisers and everyone who plays their part. You all make this event possible!

Wood Family - Junior Girls (Year 4 & Under) had 105 Runners competing - **1st Place** - Emma Spooner - St Johns Hill School. **2nd Place** - Charli McIntosh - Papanui Junction School. **3rd Place** - Huia Topia - Upokongaro School

Crawford Family - Junior Boys (Year 4 & Under) had 120 Runners. **1st Place** - Harry Tipling - Hunterville School. **2nd Place** - Jett Wilton - Hunterville School. **3rd Place** - Levi Crawford - Durie Hill School

Madams Family Senior Girls (Year 5&6) had 129 runners. **1st Place** - Alba Hutchings - St John s Hill School. **2nd Place** - Indy Bartley - St Georges School. **3rd Place** - Aroha Kauika - St John s Hill School

Lamberts Business Supplies Senior Boys (Year 5&6) had 148 Runners - **1st Place** - Luca Bott - St Johns Hill School. **2nd Place** - Kieran Muir - Westmere School. **3rd Place** - Theo Plant - St Johns Hill School

Booth Family Junior Girls 2-to-Count Cup, Presented to the school with the best Junior Girls team performance - **Winner**: St John's Hill School

Timms Engravers Junior Boys 2-to-Count Cup. Presented to the school with the best Junior Boys team performance - **Winner**: Hunterville School

Kitchen Contours Senior Girls 2-to-Count Cup. Presented to the school with the best Senior Girls team performance - **Winner**: St John s Hill School

Lamberts Business Supplies Senior Boys 2-to-Count Cup. Presented to the school with the best Senior Boys team performance - **Winner**: St John s Hill School

Best Team Performance- for Schools with less than 75 children. Presented to the school with the best team performance - **Winner**: Whare Kura Morehu O Rātana

Bretons Garage 2 to Count Cup. Presented to the school with the best team performance over four races. This cup can be won by any school EXCEPT the school who wins the Andersons For Men Cup - **Winner**: Hunterville School

Andersons Cup

Presented to the school with the best team performance over four races. - **Winner**: St John's Hill School - Supplied

Museum Object of the Month: Te Ringa Mahi Kai

By Karen Hughes

A significant taonga connected with the Battle of Kaiwhakauka will be the focus of the Whanganui Regional Museum's next Taonga o te Marama /Object of the Month talk on Friday 18 September.

Presented by Eruera Rerekura, Kaihāpai Taonga Māori/Curator Taonga Māori, the kōrero (conversation) will explore the story of Te Ringa Mahi Kai, a taiaha or staff whose name acknowledges an exchange of words between the Whanganui warrior Te Hāmarama and Tūwhare of Ngāpuhi.

The taiaha, currently on loan from Te Papa Tongarewa, Museum of New Zealand Collection, is associated with the Battle of Kaiwhakauka, fought in 1819 or 1820 during a period of significant change in Māori warfare, as the introduction of muskets altered the nature of conflict between iwi. The battle ended with a challenge between Te Hāmarama and Tūwhare, in which Te Hāmarama, a renowned exponent of the taiaha, struck Tūwhare in the temple. The northern forces subsequently conceded defeat and left the Whanganui River.

Taonga o te Marama/ Object of the Month is held on the third Friday of every month and offers a fresh way to connect with the Museum's collection. Each session follows a 15-minute lunchtime format. Visitors meet in the Museum atrium to hear the featured object's story before viewing it in the gallery.

Eruera's talk will begin at 12.15pm on Friday 18 September in the Museum.



Te Ringa Mahi Kai
Photo credit: Kathy Greensides, Te Puni Tiaki Taonga o Whanganui/ Whanganui Regional Museum.

Taonga o te Marama/ Object of the Month is free to attend and open to all. No need to book.

Koha to support the Museum's ongoing heritage preservation work is warmly welcomed.

Recent RCP winners - Oxy Energy packs

Congratulations to Nanette Maslin, Lisa Field, Sharee Martin, Evie Ingle and Dannielle Whittle, winners of OXYENERGY wellness packs containing a curated selection of their most-loved supplements and a nutrition guide. Thanks to everyone who entered!

INTERNATIONAL WEEK OF DEAF PEOPLE

September 21 - 27

Celebrating the vibrant deaf community

This year's International Week of Deaf People runs from 21-27 September. It's a time when people can come together annually to recognise and celebrate the vibrant deaf community.

Last year's theme was 'Sign up for Sign Language Rights'. As well as deaf people feeling connected to their deaf community, they should also feel connected to wider society and those without a hearing impairment. If people come together to show awareness for deaf people within communities, it can help to better connect them to others. People can become more educated about how to communicate with deaf people, contributing to positive change and breaking down stereotypical barriers.

This year's theme is "Declaring Deaf People's Human Rights".

There are lots of different ways to celebrate International Week of Deaf People. As an individual you can learn basic sign language and find out how you can support and communicate with them, too.

You can also decide to take proactive steps, by learning directly from deaf people about things they feel need to be improved in society. This can help people to step in their shoes and really understand how they can get involved, such as with campaigns or petitions.



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Community partnership delivers new cancer support vehicle for Whanganui patients

Cancer patients across the Whanganui region now have greater support getting to life-saving treatment thanks to a new transport vehicle provided by the Robert Bartley Foundation for use by the Cancer Society Whanganui.

The vehicle was purchased by the Robert Bartley Foundation to assist the Cancer Society's dedicated team of volunteer drivers who travel countless kilometres each week transporting patients to treatment appointments in Palmerston North, Wellington and beyond.

Since hitting the road, the vehicle has already clocked more than 7,000 kilometres, completing an average of three to four return trips each week, predominantly to Palmerston North and Wellington, highlighting the significant demand for this vital service.

The idea for the project was born through conversations between Robert Bartley Foundation trustee Avon McDonald and Jane Bilderbeck from the Cancer Society, as they discussed the services most needed to better support local cancer patients. Together, they identified transport as one of the greatest challenges facing people undergoing treatment, inspiring the partnership that has brought this vehicle to the community.

"Avon brought the idea to the Foundation, and after discussions with the Board, we all agreed it was a project that perfectly aligned with what the Robert Bartley Foundation is here to achieve," says Foundation Chair, Sarah Bartley.

"Our goal has always been to improve access to healthcare for people in our community. Having a dedicated vehicle available for the Cancer Society means patients can get to the treatment they need while also supporting the incredible volunteers who give so much of their time."

The project has been made possible through the support of Four Regions Trust, Bartley Group, and the ongoing generosity of local businesses through the Foundation's Wheels for Wellness Collective, an initiative established to help fund both the Cancer Support Transport Vehicle and the ongoing operation of the Waka Hauora Health Bus.

The Robert Bartley Foundation and the Cancer Society are also working together on a new initiative that supports palliative care patients and their key supporters. The programme will partner with local artists and makers to help families create meaningful keepsakes and lasting memories through creative practices such as writing, pottery, glassmaking and other art forms, recognising the important role creativity can play in preserving stories and celebrating lives.

For more information, and to support the Wheels for Wellness Collective, visit www.bartleyfoundation.org. If you would like to make a difference by becoming a volunteer driver, please contact your local Cancer Society.



Whanganui Cancer Society staff (from left) Jane Burgess, Jane Bilderbeck, Rachel Pedley, with Robert Bartley Foundation trustees Sarah Bartley and Avon McDonald (far right).

Whanganui community invited to celebrate kapa haka event



The Whanganui community is invited to come together this Saturday to celebrate the power of kapa haka and the mana of people with intellectual disability. Everyone is welcome at te Anga Pāua o Aotearoa Kapa Haka 2026 Whanganui.

The free public event starts at 11.30am at Lorenzdale Park, in Gonville, and brings together performers with intellectual disability from across the region to share their passion, talent and dedication through kapa haka.

Te Anga Pāua o Aotearoa Kapa Haka is an annual event organised by IDEA Services, which this year is celebrated through regional and local events across Aotearoa.

This year's programme is themed around Growth and inspired by the whakataukī Mā te huruhuru ka rere te manu - Adorned with feathers, the bird will fly.

The event showcases the skills, confidence and connections developed through kapa haka participation and provides opportunities for people with intellectual disabilities to celebrate their achievements alongside whānau, friends and the wider community.

Everyone is welcome to attend and support the performers.

Whanganui Kapa Haka Celebration

* Saturday 19 September 2026
Performance begins 11.30am
* Lorenzdale Park
70 Swiss Avenue
Gonville, Whanganui
* Wet weather venue: Gonville Library Cafe





Should I sell before I buy?

Rochelle's Property Q&A

I'm worried about putting my home on the market before I've found my next home. What should I do?

One of the most common questions I'm being asked at the moment is:

"I'd like to move, but I'm worried about what happens if I haven't found my next home before mine sells."

It's a completely understandable concern.

For many homeowners, it isn't the decision to sell that's stopping them. It's the uncertainty about what happens next.

The fear of selling before they've secured their next home often means they delay doing anything at all.

The good news is there are usually several ways to plan ahead and reduce that uncertainty.

There isn't one solution that suits everyone

Every homeowner's situation is different, which means the right strategy will be different too.

For some people, negotiating a longer settlement period can provide extra time to find their next home. Others may have family or friends they could stay with temporarily if needed, while short-term accommodation may also be an option.

In some situations, making an offer on your next home subject to the sale of your current property may also be worth considering. Whether that's the right approach depends on your circumstances, the property you're buying and the current market.

The important thing is understanding the options available before you make any decisions.

Planning ahead can make all the difference

One of the most valuable conversations I have with homeowners often takes place before they decide to put their home on the market.

By talking through your plans early, we can discuss different settlement options, possible backup plans and work out a strategy that suits your circumstances.

Sometimes that means selling first.

Sometimes it means waiting.

Sometimes it simply means having a Plan B in place.

Don't wait until you've found the perfect home

One mistake I sometimes see is homeowners waiting until they've found the perfect next home before they start planning to sell.

The challenge is that when the right property does come along, you may need to act quickly. If you haven't already explored your options, understood what your current home might be worth or considered the best strategy for your situation, you can find yourself under unnecessary pressure or even miss out on a property you really wanted.

Starting the conversation early doesn't mean you have to put your home on the market immediately. It simply gives you time to understand your options, make informed decisions and have a plan in place so you're ready to act when the right opportunity comes along.

The Bottom Line

Selling and buying don't always have to happen at exactly the same time. Every situation is different, so it's about finding the approach that works best for you.

Whether you're planning to sell now or simply thinking ahead, an early conversation can often provide clarity and help you make informed decisions with confidence.

If you'd like honest, confidential advice about your property or your options, I'd be delighted to help.

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>
> - Anna O'Connor (seller) ratemyagent

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Whanganui local, Juan Coffey, joins forces to start new political party

What drives someone to start a new political party? The financial and time outlay, not to mention the commitment to deep thinking to develop policies, would scare off the most ardent political pundit. Whanganui's Juan Coffey, who has taken a deep interest in politics for decades, is doing just that.

Frustrated with left - right policy swings, he and co-founder Harrison Stirling have created Balance New Zealand – a grassroots centre political party that they believe would see New Zealanders thrive.

Juan says, "It always seems to be this tribal left-versus-right kind of battle every three years or six years. So, my offsider and I, Harrison, decided we wanted to start our own political party.

"'A new incoming government throws out a whole bunch of stuff; the last one didn't implement their own stuff, and then we go through this perpetual cycle where they're replacing things. And we can't seem to have a stable system where policies are written for everybody.

"Neither of us had an ideology to start with. We're both just Kiwis at the coalface."

At the top of this list of 'must-dos' for the Balance NZ team is pushing for New Zealand to have a single written constitution to help anchor that stability. Parliament currently holds sovereignty, and New Zealand courts do not have the power to strike down regular parliamentary laws for contradicting a constitutional right.

Balance suggests one referendum to determine what the people want in the constitution, like the name of our country.



Juan and Harrison with one of the Balance New Zealand billboards now in place.

"So, if we all go to the referendum and we choose what the name of the country is, if it's Aotearoa, New Zealand, or Aotearoa New Zealand, the people will decide, and then from that day forward, no one can argue with it. It's in the constitution."

That's just one example of the types of decisions people will be asked to make in a referendum. For Juan and Harrison, a referendum is the truly democratic process.

"For me, it's pretty clear that it's either co-governance or it's democracy. You can't have both."

Juan and Harrison have developed a raft of policies, written in plain English and available on the Balance website. Health is one of their core focuses.

"You need a healthy population, and you need good business to provide jobs," says Juan.

Juan and Harrison believe radical change is required in the health sector and look to the evidence-based results of Scandinavian health models, which would devolve the power of Health New Zealand, tag budgets to an individual's care, and open up more opportunities for other health providers to expand the types of services they deliver, including private hospitals.

"What you'd be doing is spreading the load amongst all of those organisations rather than just relying on one health system to service all that.

"What I'm saying is evidence-based; it's research of what's happening overseas; there's the evidence that it works. They're actually just bringing it into Victoria in Australia as well."

Balance's goals are to grow membership to 500, register as a party, reach the 5% threshold and access public funding by 2029. It's a lot of work, but Juan and Harrison have the party's future mapped out.

Juan says, "Politics has always been in my blood, and I knew it'd be my last career. And I'm 52 now, so I thought, well, I'd better start now. I don't want to sort of go to my deathbed and say, well, I didn't try."

For more information about Balance, the five core principles on which the party is based, and their 19 policies, visit www.balancenz.org.nz

Kai Iwi School and District to celebrate 150 years



A very special milestone is on the horizon for Kai Iwi School, Waitahinga School and Maxwell School, with plans well underway to celebrate an incredible 150 years of education, community and memories.

For 150 years, the school has been much more than a place where children come to learn. It has been at the heart of the community, a place where friendships have been formed, sporting achievements celebrated, performances enjoyed, traditions created and countless memories made.

Generations of tamariki have walked through the school gates, taught by dedicated teachers, support staff and supported by families and the wider Kai Iwi community. While classrooms, teachers, buildings and technology have changed dramatically over the years, the heart of the school remains the same: a small, caring school where children are known, valued and encouraged to be the very best they can be.

The Kai Iwi School and District 150th Birthday Celebrations will be held from 23-25 October, and we are looking forward to welcoming past and present pupils, former staff, families, whānau and members of the wider Kai Iwi community back to celebrate this incredible milestone.

We want to hear from you! If you are a former pupil, staff member, parent or community member with photographs, stories, school memorabilia or memories from Kai Iwi, Waitahinga or Maxwell Schools, we would love to hear from you. Every story, big or small, helps to build the picture of our school's incredible history.

SAVE THE DATE

23-25 October 2026

Come back. Reconnect. Reminisce. Celebrate.

For more information, please contact the Kai Iwi School office or keep an eye on the Kai Iwi & Districts 150th, and Kai Iwi School Facebook pages for updates, registration information and details about the weekend's celebrations.

ASK A PROFESSIONAL

Preparing for unexpected vet bills

Pets are wonderful companions, but they're also a serious, long-term financial commitment. The costs of food, vaccinations, microchipping, de-sexing and dental care can be expected regularly over their 10 to 20 year lifespan, but at some point in their life, pets also bring significant and sometimes overwhelming unexpected costs when they become unwell or are injured.

Having pet insurance can prepare you for many of these costs, depending on the conditions covered by your pet's policy. Alternatively, weekly payments into a dedicated vet bill bank account or directly into your pet's vet clinic account can ensure that when these costs come up, much of the treatment is already paid for.

When it comes to vet bills, expecting the unexpected gives you the peace of mind of knowing that your pet is covered when they need urgent veterinary care.

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Schola Sacra Choir's concert now on Sunday, September 20

Schola Sacra Choir was to perform Henry Purcell's baroque opera, Dido and Aeneas, on Saturday 12 September, but unfortunately Musical Director Iain Tetley was not well, and the concert needed to be rescheduled. Iain is also an accomplished tenor and will sing a selection of solo pieces.

The performance is now taking place this Sunday, 20 September, at Christ Church in Wicksteed Street at 2.30pm.

Further tickets can be obtained from choir members or at the door. Adults: $25, Seniors: $20, Tertiary Students: $15, 18s and under are free.



NZ Women's

Suffrage Day

September 19

The background to NZ's women's suffrage

New Zealand became the first self-governing country in the world to grant women the right to vote in parliamentary elections on 19 September 1893.

Historical Background

In the late 19th century, women in New Zealand, like in many other countries, were excluded from political participation. The movement gained momentum through the efforts of the Women's Christian Temperance Union (WCTU NZ) and other suffrage organisations, which argued that women's participation in politics would improve social morality and protect families.

Kate Sheppard emerged as the most prominent leader of the suffrage movement. She coordinated petitions, organised rallies, and worked with local and international suffragists to advocate for women's voting rights.

The Suffrage Petitions

Between 1891 and 1893, suffragists presented a series of petitions to Parliament. The 1893 petition, often called the "monster petition," contained 31,872 signatures, representing nearly a quarter of adult European women in New Zealand. This petition was instrumental in demonstrating widespread public support for women's suffrage. Māori women were actively involved, advocating for their right to vote and participate in Te Kotahitanga, the Māori Parliament.

The culmination of these efforts was the Electoral Act 1893, on 19 September 1893, granting all women aged 21 and over the right to vote in parliamentary elections. Women voted for the first time in the general election held on 28 November 1893, with Māori women voting in separate electorates on 20 December.



Kate Sheppard

National Council of Women celebrate 130 years

The National Council of Women NZ celebrates and remembers the group of brave and resourceful women who, in the late 19th Century, came together and fought for women's right to vote. This day is celebrated each year on 19 September.

This year NCWNZ is also celebrating its 130th anniversary. The annual Conference held in Auckland last weekend, with 100 women attending, was opened by the Deputy Mayor of Auckland, Desley Simpson, a strong advocate for women.

The guest speaker was Professor Gael Pacheco, EEO Commissioner at the Human Rights Commission and adjunct Professor of Economics. The title of her talk was From Suffrage to Economic Participation. She outlined trends under the framework of; access, participation, reward, progression and economic security. She was very strong in her view that pay equity is a human right which was trampled on by the cancellation of 33 pay equity claims, stating it was a regressive step for Human Rights.

The Conference AGM was held in the afternoon and was followed by a celebratory dinner where a Life membership was awarded.

It was a positive and affirming Conference, inspiring those who attended to continue advocating for women and the many issues needing to be resolved if equal rights are ever to be achieved.

- Jenny Saywood
NCWNZ Whanganui Branch President.

NCW NZ

National Council of Women NZ celebrating 133 years of women's suffrage.

We represent women's voices and influence key decisions and issues through research, discussions and submissions.

New members welcome.

Contact Jenny Saywood
Whanganui Branch President
021 066 7766



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Whanganui City Football Club 75th Jubilee

October 24-26



wcfc

WHANGANUI CITY FOOTBALL CLUB

75TH JUBILEE

TIME TO GET TOGETHER AND REMINISCE

REGISTRATION FORM

October 24th, 25th and 26th 2026 (Labour Weekend)

Name: .....

Contact info:.....

Number attending:.....

☐ Friday Evening – Meet and Greet - $10 pp

☐ Saturday – 11am – Photos

☐ 1pm - Social game for those still able

☐ 6pm – Dinner at Barracks - $70 pp

☐ Sunday – 11am BBQ and send off - $20 pp

Total Cost - $100pp

Account for payment – WCFC 03-0791-0562463-03

Please put your name and "jubilee" as reference

Amount paid: ..... Date:.....

Please send this completed form to wcfc75th@gmail.com

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Whanganui City Football Club 75th Jubilee

October 24-26

Whanganui City Football Club to celebrate 75 years on October 23-25







The Whanganui City Football Club was founded in the early 1950s under the name of Queen's Own Band. It was later named Western Suburbs FC in 1967, and in 1969, the club's name was changed to 'Wanganui City Football Club' to encompass the whole of Whanganui.

In the early days, after match functions were held in various pubs and bars around the town, as well as having the Wanganui East Tennis Club and the Legions of Frontier Men's Hall as the club base for a period of time.

Later, some club members introduced the idea of buying a house and land at 17 Wilkie St, just outside the entrance to Wembley Park. The house was rented, then unfortunately burnt down.

Undaunted, they proposed building purpose-built clubrooms on the site. However, this was proposed and declined twice before they got it across the line. Ken Price had a huge part to play in proposing the idea and planning of the clubrooms.

To build, there was a huge amount of club-wide fundraising such as cutting and selling firewood, raffles, a float in the Christmas Parade, plus a loan from Trustbank.

To gain the loan, 20 club members became personal guarantors of the loan, taking on a huge liability to help the club move forward.

The clubrooms were completed in 1985 and opened by John Adshead, coach of the All Whites at the time. WCFC was the first football club to become an incorporated society, and the first to own land.

The club has grown, especially with the number of junior teams. In 1975, there were one Tasman League men's side, two senior men's teams, one local league team and one youth league team. Juniors started in the late 1970s. Currently, the club has one travelling men's side, one local league side, one women's team, and 28 junior teams.

Throughout the years, the club has also had basketball, volleyball, cricket, rowing, netball and volleyball teams.

The WCFC 75th jubilee will be held on 23rd – 25th October 2026. Please contact wcfc75th@gmail.com to register or with any queries. The programme for the reunion will be provided on contact.





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Naram vs Disrupt bring local and international heat to music gig next Saturday

Local musician Tom Langford (aka Naram) has a unique talent for hiding his light under a bushel, as the saying goes. In other words, he's not a guy who likes to brag. RCP has recently uncovered some of the success he has had in the reggae genre, not just in New Zealand, but globally, with his old friend Michael Robins, who announced a gig soon to hit Porridge Watson, Naram v Disrupt (Jan Gliechmar). Jan is a well-known artist on the European underground music scene.

Disrupt is also the founder of renowned German digital reggae label, Jahtari. Naram, with a laser focus on reggae, established his own studio around 2020. Michael describes it as "Hardware analogue-based, second-hand 70s and '80s vintage technology. That's how he can now achieve the authentic sound."

Naram and Disrupt's technical dedication to sound, digital or analogue, has kept the relationship beating since they connected in Leipzig in 2011.

Michael says, "I think they are two people who are very similar, living on different sides of the world."

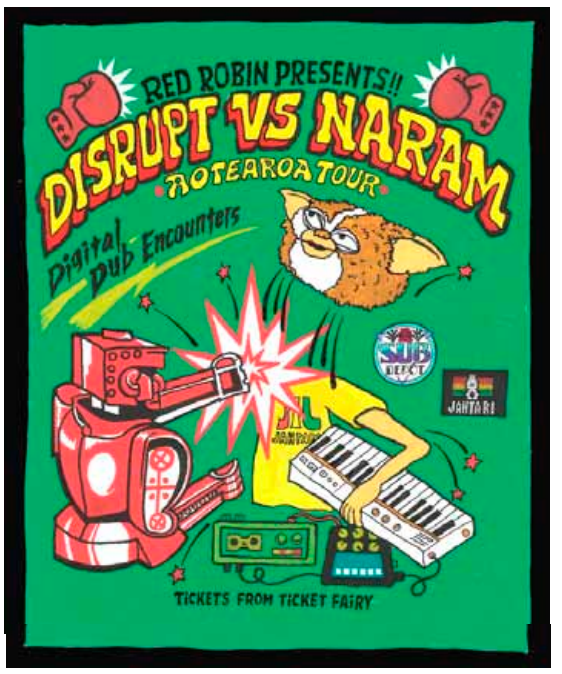
In 2014, Naram released his first album under the Jahtari label, *The March of the Gremlins.* It earned widespread critical acclaim for its unique, dark blend of vintage 1980s-style digital dancehall, retro-futurism, and analogue synthesisers. Naram handled the production and instrumentation for *March of the Gremlins*, while a roster of legendary UK reggae, dancehall, and fast-chat MCs provided the vocals.

"Literally thousands of copies of the album were sold all over the world," says Michael.

Naram and Michael established their own label, Red Robin Records in 2017; releasing, *Midnight Riders Meets the Naram Rhythm Section* (2020) – A landmark collaborative album with Jamaican vocalist Midnight Riders, praised internationally as a top reggae release of the year; *Tippa Lee meets the Naram Rhythm Section - Musically Bad* (2025), a collaboration with Jamaican deejay Tippa Lee, mixed in Naram's Whanganui analogue studio; and most recently, *Under Siege* (2026) – A collaborative project with Piper Street Sound and General Pecos.

Michael says the Porridge Watson gig will be a magnet for people from far and wide around the North Island to appreciate two legends of sound.

Porridge Watson - DISRUPT V NARAM
26 September
7.30pm – 12.30am
Tickets from Ticket Fairy



RCP Bouquet given to film festival organisers

Four women – Queralt, Marilyn, Beverley and Andrea – who all have a developed interest in Latin America and Spain, have been organising the Latin American and Spain Film Festival now for 12 years (to be precise, Marilyn joined 10 years ago).

The festival, which is increasingly popular, provides free screenings in the Davis Theatre for eight films over two weeks, from most Latin American countries as well as from Spain. Entry is free thanks to the sponsorship the four women obtain.



At the back: Andrea and Marilyn. In front – Queralt and Beverley

The festival is also special for the opening night of red wine and appropriate snacks. Then there is the final night of tapas, with all food cooked by the four of them.

The films are also important in bringing not only those who speak Spanish or Portuguese, but also the wider community wanting to find out more about this part of the world.

The RCP was able to surprise three out of the four (we had to advise one of them beforehand) at the opening of the Festival on Thursday evening, to present them with a beautiful bouquet of flowers put together by Nichola and her team at the Flower Room.

Whanganui's Honest Kitchen celebrates 8th birthday by taking wholesome flavours nationwide

Whanganui local favourite Honest Kitchen is marking a major milestone this month, celebrating eight years of nourishing the local community by launching nationwide delivery for its loved line of ready-to-eat meals.

Known for its fresh, wholesome ingredients and rich, vibrant flavour profiles, Honest Kitchen is taking its offerings across New Zealand. Customers anywhere in the country will now be able to order chef-prepared meals delivered straight to their doorstep.Honest Kitchen was founded on a simple premise: that real food, cooked with care, has the power to bring connection and nourishment when life gets busy. What started eight years ago as a local effort to provide Whanganui families with honest, wholesome dishes has grown into a trusted kitchen for anyone seeking authentic home-style cooking without the stress of meal prep.

"We've always believed that good food should feel like a warm hug," says owner and head chef, Karen Sewell. "Celebrating our eighth birthday by expanding nationwide feels like the perfect next chapter. With our new delivery service, families, busy professionals, and food lovers across New Zealand can enjoy fresh, flavour-packed meals without lifting a pan."



Owner and head chef, Karen Sewell.

The initial nationwide menu features customer favourites, including slow-cooked casseroles, rich bakes, and decadent desserts. All meals are packed fresh in eco-conscious, insulated packaging to ensure peak quality upon arrival.

To explore the new menu and celebrate eight years of Honest Kitchen, visit honestkitchen.co.nz from 14 September.

ENROLMENT + EDUCATION POP-UP

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Tues 29th September
3-6pm
Sat 26th September
11am-2pm

Hope & Co.
63A Ridgway Street
Weds 23rd September
4-7pm
Thursday 1st October
4-7pm

Hakeke Street
Community Centre
Weds 16th September
11am-1pm
Weds 14th October
2:30 - 4:30pm

Riverside Markets - Sat 19th September
Sat 3rd October

Please bring a form of ID (Drivers License or Passport) to check your details online

All pop ups include accessible formats, sensory support items and support for people with disabilities.

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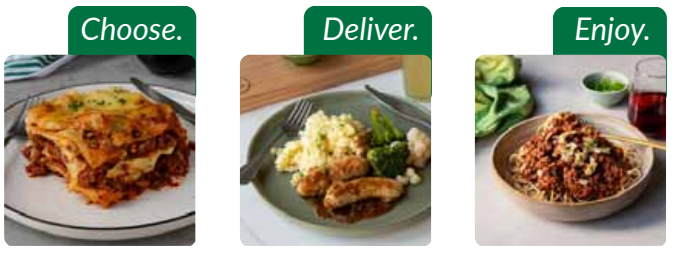

www.honestkitchen.co.nz

REAL ESTATE & RENOVATION NEWS

'Homely Decor' by Vivienne Wondergem



Vivienne Wondergem

Vivienne Wondergem will be well known in Whanganui for 'Rosalie's Homely Décor', which she set up in 2017 and combining it with providing mini high teas in her shops in Victoria Ave and Ridgway Street. However, after Covid, and the need to look after her mother in the Hawkes Bay, Vivienne left Whanganui for a few years, returning late last year.

She has now set up 'Homely Décor' in Victoria Court (92-96 Victoria Ave), bringing her energy into 'upstaging' Victoria Court to make it an enjoyable place to visit, with hanging baskets, potted plants and a Saturday monthly Vintage Mini Market for locals and visitors.

Her point of difference is that she will prepare your home for sale by 'staging' using your existing furnishings. As she says, "It is the cost effective alternative to bringing in new furnishings," and with over 25 years' experience staging properties to assist the selling process, alongside renovating and selling family properties, she knows how best to do it.

"I can work within your budget to reinvent and rejig your property. I can make it look a gorgeous, inviting place with my experience and expertise. It will involve paring it back and putting some items into temporary storage."

An important plus is you can comfortably live in your renewed space and take any improvements and ideas into your new home.

Vivienne is open to both individual clients as well as working with Real Estate agents.

"I will however be at arm's length between the agency and the client."

Her location in Victoria Court will be both an office and an area for 'Rosalie's Teas.' This will be a Devonshire Scones and Tea experience using her "perfect little Queen's Scone recipe." It will require pre-bookings with a minimum of four people. Likewise for her office – it is by appointment only.

Ring quickly for a free staging. If you are selling your house and if you are one of the first three to ring Vivienne on 0204 0007 007, you will win a free staging session.

Clean Up NZ Week

Clean Up Week is New Zealand's largest annual community-driven litter and waste cleanup event, taking place from 18 September to 2 October, coinciding with World Clean Up Day on 19 September.

It is organised by Keep New Zealand Beautiful, a not-for-profit organisation dedicated to reducing litter, promoting environmental awareness, and encouraging sustainable practices. The initiative brings together individuals, families, schools, businesses, and community groups to participate in local cleanup activities, making a tangible impact on the environment.

In 2025, volunteers collected 30 tonnes of waste, equivalent to the weight of a sperm whale. The event not only reduces litter but also raises awareness about climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution, encouraging long-term environmental.

ROSELIE'S HOMELY DECOR

HOMELY DECOR

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I can create an affordable framework to not only provide the formula to present your home to its very best but will show you how to infuse your home with my signature magical 'juju' !!

Your refreshed home will create a wonderful homely yet stylish vibe that everyone will respond to no matter their own personal style.

An important plus is you can comfortably live in your renewed space and take any improvements and ideas into your new home.







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Care begins with the person

New Zealand's aged care system is under mounting pressure. In its August 2026 report, *A place to grow old*, the Aged Care Ministerial Advisory Group described the system as underfunded and fragmented, with residential care already at capacity. About 105,000 New Zealanders are aged 85 or over today. By 2047, that number is projected to reach almost 265,000. The report projects demand for residential care will increase by 87 per cent from 2024/25 levels by 2047/48.

Those figures have intensified debate about funding, beds and the workforce needed to care for a growing older population. **Yet beneath the numbers sits a more personal question: when someone needs residential care, what happens to the life they have spent decades shaping?**

Moving into a rest home often follows a decline in health, cognitive changes or a sudden crisis. The decision may need to be made quickly, at a time when an older person and their whānau are already under pressure. For many, the fear is not only of unfamiliar surroundings. It is that the person will become defined by their care needs, and that routines will begin to shape them rather than the other way around.

Safe, skilled clinical care is essential. **But quality care must also protect the things that make someone who they are:** their preferences, relationships, history, sense of purpose and right to make decisions about their own life.

That belief guides care at Enliven Central, a not-for-profit provider of rest homes, retirement villages and other services across the lower North Island. Enliven Central's approach is guided by the internationally recognised Eden Alternative philosophy, which challenges three threats to wellbeing in later life: loneliness, helplessness and boredom.

The philosophy recognises that wellbeing is about more than managing illness or completing daily tasks. Companionship, contribution and choice matter too.

At Enliven Central, staff work alongside residents and whānau to understand each person's story, culture, routines and interests, then support them to retain as much independence and control as possible.

In practice, that starts with ordinary decisions – but these decisions mean choice and autonomy. What time would you like to get up? What do you want to wear? What would you like to eat, and who would you like to sit with? Do you want to join an activity, spend time outdoors, help with a familiar task or simply have a quiet day?

These choices may appear small, but together they determine whether a rest home feels institutional or genuinely feels like home. Residents can help set tables, call the bingo, water plants or contribute to decisions about life in the home. Kitchenettes allow people to prepare a snack or host a friend. Menus and activities respond to residents' interests rather than expecting everyone to fit the same programme.

The principle is simple: staff enter the resident's home to provide support. The resident has not entered the staff's workplace to follow a timetable.

For resident Betsy, that means keeping busy in the ways she chooses.

"When we came here, we were told to treat the place as our own home, and that's what I like to do," she says. "I like to keep my brain busy. We have all sorts of quizzes, and I like to walk out to the gate and back three or four times a day, just to keep fit."

Nobody sets Betsy's walks as a task. She decides when she wants to go, and staff are there if she would like support or company. It is a modest example, but an important one: care can make an independent choice possible instead of replacing it.

Whānau remain part of the picture too. Hamish, whose wife Rosemary lives with Alzheimer's, says the welcome and attention shown by staff have helped reassure him.

"I've been very impressed with the care she's receiving, and the friendliness of the staff. They go above and beyond."

Delivering this kind of care takes more than a written policy. It requires staff who take time to listen, notice when someone has withdrawn, learn what gives them pleasure or purpose, and act on what residents and whānau say. Clinical expertise, rosters and routines should support the person, not overshadow them.

As a not-for-profit organisation, Enliven Central reinvests in its services and communities. Its measure of good care is not simply whether needs have been met, but whether each person remains known, heard and involved in the life of their home.

As New Zealand considers how to build an aged care system ready for the years ahead, capacity and funding will be critical. So will the experience of the people living within it. **Needing care should never mean losing choice. Residents must remain in the centre of every decision within their home, to continue living life their way.**

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enlivencentral.org.nz/rethink-ageing

THE NEW ZEALAND BREAST CANCER FOUNDATION

Breast Cancer Awareness Month October 2026

Ways to get involved

There are loads of different ways to get involved – from being "Breast Aware", to helping to raise vital funds for breast cancer research, education and patient support.

• **Pink Ribbon Street Appeal** – Grab a bucket, get dressed up in pink, and join thousands of volunteers around NZ collecting donations for Breast Cancer Foundation NZ on 16 and 17 October. Sign up at pinkribbonvolunteer.org.nz, or drop a donation in the bucket when you see collectors. You can also donate online at pinkribbonappeal.co.nz or by texting 'PINK' to 2447 to donate $3.

• **Pink Ribbon Walk** – Walk 5km or 10km for the ones you love in Christchurch (4 October) or Auckland (11 October). Buy tickets from pinkribbonwalk.co.nz

• **Shop for good** – Buy a Pink Product from one of our generous partners (including Griffin's, ghd, Sealy, and The Good Oil), where a portion of sales will go towards Breast Cancer Foundation NZ's life-saving work.

Visit breastcancerfoundation.org.nz/bcam to see all the different ways you can make a difference this October.

About Breast Cancer Foundation NZ

• Breast Cancer Foundation NZ's vision is to see zero deaths from breast cancer.

• We work towards this through our programmes in breast health promotion and education, research, patient support and advocacy.

• We receive no government funding and rely entirely on donations from the public and our partners to fund our life-saving work.

About breast cancer in New Zealand – facts & figures

• Breast cancer is the most common cancer affecting women in New Zealand.

• More than 3,700 New Zealanders are diagnosed with breast cancer every year.

• 10 women are diagnosed each day, 1 will be Māori.

• Breast cancer in younger women is less common, but it does tend to be more aggressive. Of the 3,700 women in NZ diagnosed every year, around 400 of them will be under 45.

• Every year 26 men are diagnosed with breast cancer in NZ too.

• More than 650 people die from breast cancer in NZ each year.

• Breast cancer is the leading cause of death for NZ women under 65.

• Wāhine Māori are 35% more likely to be diagnosed with breast cancer and 33% more likely to die.

• Pasifika women are 20% more likely to be diagnosed and 52% more likely to die.

• More than 36,000 people currently live with or have survived breast cancer in NZ.

• There is a 10-year survival rate if breast cancer is detected early by mammogram is 95%, but this falls to 85% if a symptom is found.

Breast Cancer fundraiser morning tea to be held at Wanganui East Club - purchase your ticket today



Wanganui East Club is hosting a Sweet October – Sweet Louise - Pink Morning Tea for 100 people to raise awareness and funds to support New Zealand's incurable breast cancer sufferers – women and men. It's part of nationwide drive during October's Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

Club members, Vice President Jan Baldwin and Margaret Gudsell, have planned the event and every cent raised will be donated to the charity. The Pink Morning Tea is taking place on 2 Oct at 10.00am in the Club Restaurant.

On offer will be scones with lashings of jam and cream, club sandwiches, savouries, and, of course, Louise Slice, a nationwide inclusion on the table in honour of Louise Perkins, who passed away after living for 10 years with incurable cancer.

Louise refused to be defined by cancer and lived with absolute positivity – and the funds raised will assist others going through a similar journey to have the emotional and financial support they need.

Several local businesses have offered support by donating spot prizes for the event; there is also a raffle, and a fun quiz. It's a chance for people in the community to connect and raise funds for a great cause.

The funding goes to support for sufferers with readymade meals and home help, support groups, online and face to face, vouchers for self-care services and much more.

Jan will also have a display featuring New Zealand author Kerry Buchanan's personal journey with cancer titled Hope, Humour, and Persistent Little #%&@ers.

Jan says, "It's a great book supporting people going through the journey. I have bought the book for a couple of friends, and they said it's absolutely fantastic, and great to read about someone else's experience. Books will be available for purchase at the morning tea."

Now, all you need to do is purchase your ticket for $20.00 at the Wanganui East Club, and you are welcome to wear pink on the day.

It's a busy time for the Wanganui East Club with planning for the Club's 50th Jubilee celebrations looming on 16-18 October, with registrations closing on 30 September.

Early detection is the key to surviving breast cancer



• Early detection gives you the best chance to survive breast cancer. When tumours are small and haven't spread, they are easier to treat.

• Being 'breast aware' can save your life:

• Know your normal – get to know the normal look and feel of your breasts.

• Check your breasts regularly. If you notice any unusual changes, get them checked by a GP straight away.

• If you're 45-74, go for your free mammograms provided by BreastScreen Aotearoa every two years.

• Breast Cancer Foundation NZ recommends you consider a mammogram yearly between the ages of 40 and 49.

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HOSPITAL CHAPLAINCY AWARENESS

A time to highlight a vital service at our hospital

Located amongst the busy day-to-day physical care of patients, on the Whanganui Hospital's second floor, is a space that represents peace and solace, a place for reflection: the chapel. The chapel's peaceful energy is reflected around bedsides throughout the hospital by Rev. Amail Habib, hospital chaplain, Norma O'Connor, Catholic chaplain and a team of locum chaplains and Volunteer Chaplaincy Assistants. They offer a listening ear to patients and staff with compassion and without judgment, for anyone who needs to unburden their troubles.

The Hospital Chaplaincy Awareness Week was run at the hospital from 7 to 11 September. The promotional material pamphlets and banners were professionally prepared and supplied by Hospital Chaplaincy Aotearoa's national office in Wellington. It was a great initiative which proved to be very successful. An information table was set up at the main entrance of the hospital manned by at least two people (Locum chaplains/Volunteer Chaplaincy Assistants).

Hospital chaplaincy is a vital, free service delivered by those of Christian faith, to anyone who needs their support, not to 'sell' religion, but to listen. The service is available 24/7, and you don't need to be of faith to benefit from the service.

Amial Habib says delivering the service "is not only rewarding, but it's hugely humbling."

"We focus on helping the patients by going into their space. The idea is to listen to them, not tell our story. We have tremendous experiences here. People have a range of emotions that we sit with and carry.

No two humans think or behave the same, and we value that."

The service operates with Amail, Norma, seven volunteers, and six locum chaplains from local parishes who are ordained and can offer Holy Communion if requested. The team can also connect to representatives from all faiths, not just Christian, which is critical in a multicultural world.

Funeral services, alongside the regular services, are sometimes held in the chapel. Amail has also conducted weddings at the hospital.

He recalls a gentleman who was in CCU, terminally ill: he and his partner wanted to marry, but the cost had always been a stumbling block.

Amail explains, "It was the best wedding that I did."

"The CCU staff were very helpful. They emptied the biggest room.

"The gentleman was taken off support for a very short time. I did the shortest wedding of my life, and it was amazing. And the whole family was there, including their children and grandchildren.

The Whanganui Hospital Chaplaincy service is one of 39 services throughout the country, operated by Hospital Chaplaincy Aotearoa, Makaula Hohipera, which is based in Wellington and employs 93 chaplains in 39 hospitals nationwide.

Training takes place at Whanganui Hospital over three months for Volunteer Chaplaincy Assistants, following the nationwide training programme. Volunteers are typically trained as a group, but one-on-one training can be arranged too.

As well as receiving some government funding, Hospital Chaplaincy Aotearoa is also supported by individual donors, churches, denominations, and community funders, all helping to provide this vital service to the vulnerable. Community financial support is a lifeline, and if you are in a position to support, you can visitwww.hospitalchaplaincy.org.nz to find out more.

The role of local Parishes and the local Chaplaincy Committee Whanganui is also vital to carrying out this service.

If you are interested in volunteering your time for this service, that would be most welcome. It's meaningful work that is priceless for those receiving the support. Contact Amail Habib on (06) 348-3318 or email amail.habib@wdhb.org.nz to find out more.

Chapel Service - 10am every Sunday

To donate scan the QR Code



Rev. Rosemary Anderson

The Catholic Parish of Whanganui

Te Pārihi Katorika ki Whanganui

Thank you to our hospital chaplains whose care and compassion complements the great work done by our doctors and nurses here in Whanganui.

Sunday Mass Times

5.30pm	Holy Family Church	22 Tawhero Street (Sat Vigil)
9.30am	St Mary's Church	49 Guyton Street
5.30pm	St Mary's Church	49 Guyton Street

For other Mass times and contact information please visit our website
www.catholicparishwhanganui.org.nz

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STEELFORM

WHANGANUI vs MID CANTERBURY

HEARTLAND CHAMPIONSHIP

Cooks Gardens
WHANGANUI
THIS SATURDAY
1.00pm

Home game for Whanganui against Mid Canterbury this Saturday

By Jared Smith

Steelform Whanganui supporters will be hoping Saturday's Week 6 game in the Hilux Heartland Championship at Cooks Gardens could be a 'passing of the torch' moment.

Still second place on the points table, Whanganui will host fifth-place Mid Canterbury, who are the reigning Meads Cup champions from 2025, so it would be very symbolic in this race to make the Top 4 in 2026, if the hosts could defeat the Cantabrians along the way on their quest to lift the title.

Having been on the road for the past fortnight, Whanganui rebounded from a surprise 19-17 defeat to neighbours Horowhenua-Kapiti in Levin to staging a remarkable comeback against North Otago down in Oamaru last Saturday, scoring 42 points in the second half for a 57-39 triumph.

Levin was an anomaly in more ways than one, as the past two weeks across Heartland have seen all teams running up some big scores – high intensity and strong attacking rugby has really come to the fore in the 50th anniversary season of NPC rugby in this country.

You can guarantee Whanganui would love to turn it on for their home supporters with an attractive brand of football to come and watch against a quality opponent.

Centre Zack Soqonakalou scored two more tries in Oamaru to lead the Heartland try-scorers list for this campaign with eight, raising the possibility he could be the one to break the Heartland season record of Whanganui's Pati Fetuai with 14 - set way back in the inaugural 2006 competition.

But there is another even more significant record which could well be set to fall in this game.

With six tries so far, winger Alekesio Vakarorogo has moved up to 51 tries in Heartland Championship games, tying with fellow active player Iliesa Tora of Buller for second-most of all time, and only two tries behind the overall record of 53, held by South Canterbury's Kalavini Leatigaga (2016-2025).



Zack Soqonakalou. ***Photo courtesy of Kate Belsham, Ivy Digital***

But Mid Canterbury are not interested in assisting other teams in reaching milestones.

The Ashburton-based union famously ended neighbour South Canterbury's record 39-game winning streak, 17-16 in the 2024 Meads Cup semi-finals, and although they went on to lose the final to Thames Valley, Mid Canterbury carried on to have an unbeaten 2025 and lift the silverware.

This year, wins over Wairarapa-Bush, East Coast and Buller have been offset by defeats to neighbours North Otago and South Canterbury.

Kickoff is 1pm.

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STEELFORM

WHANGANUI vs MID CANTERBURY

BUNNINGS HEARTLAND CHAMPIONSHIP

Cooks Gardens
WHANGANUI
THIS SATURDAY
1.00pm

Dane Whale is set to play his 100th first class game for Whanganui

By Jared Smith

There is a strong possibility a long-time Steelform Whanganui servant will celebrate one of the most significant of local rugby milestones if he takes the field against Mid Canterbury on Saturday at Cooks Gardens.

Taihape's own Dane Whale is set to play his 100th First Class game for Whanganui, becoming only the fifteenth player to do so in the history of this union.

The 34-year-old made his debut off the bench in the opening game of the 2014 Heartland Championship against South Canterbury in Timaru on August 23rd of that year.

Whale would play six more games as part of that Lochore Cup-winning season, although he would miss the playoffs, and then after an absence in 2015 he returned with a vengeance in 2016 to cement himself in the 'Heartland Invincibles' squad which won the Meads Cup unbeaten, before retaining their Meads crown in 2017.

He would famously snap off the drop goal which made Whanganui safe in the 2017 final against Horowhenua-Kapiti in Levin.

Whale would lift silverware again during the 2021 season, which he started with his 50th game facing Poverty Bay, before going on to claim the Lochore Cup in what was a 'playoff for third' in that Covid-delayed season.

He received the high honour of becoming the regular Whanganui captain in the 2022-23 seasons, both years' guiding his team through to the Meads Cup final, where they came up short against the dominant South Canterbury.

His strong performances saw him selected for the NZ Heartland XV three times for their one-off games in 2021-23.

Part of the legendary Whale family dynasty, Dane follows in the footsteps of his father Kerry, who also played 100 games for Whanganui from 1985-1998.

He has been in the team at different times with both of his brothers in Ben (16 games) and Luke (14), while a cousin in Chad, played during the 2025 preseason.

Whale's appearances currently consist of 91 Heartland games, four 'Friendlies' in the 2020 Covid-disrupted season, and four Ranfurly Shield challenges against Waikato (2016), Canterbury (2017), Taranaki (2018 and acting captain) and Hawke's Bay (2024).

He has played at first-five 67 times, along with five games at second-five and one at fullback, while coming off the bench in 29 matches.

Whale has scored 273 points for Whanganui from ten tries, 82 conversions, 17 penalties (one of which was worth two points under the 2016 Heartland rules) and three drop goals.



Dane Whale with son Ali. ***Photo courtesy of Kate Belsham, Ivy Digital***

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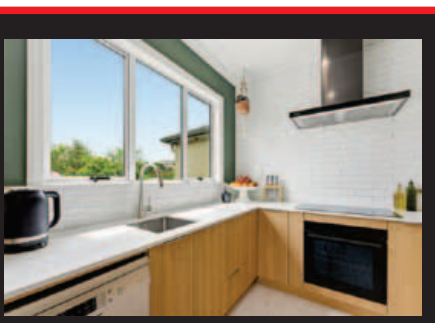
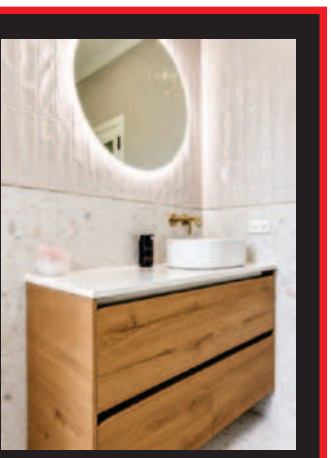


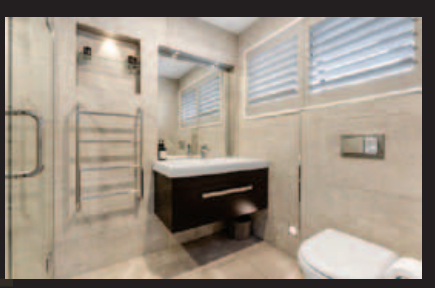


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Alzheimers New Zealand Whanganui
MEMORY Walk
Registration only $10
This Saturday 19 September 2026
10:30am | Whanganui River Market | Meet at Silver Bearing (Sphere)
A 3km community walk honouring people living with dementia/mate wareware, supporting whānau and bringing our community together

Join the Alzheimers Whanganui annual Memory Walk this Saturday

Alzheimers Whanganui is inviting the community to come together for their annual Memory Walk on Saturday 19 September, starting at 10.30am at the Bearing Sculpture at the Whanganui River Markets.

The Memory Walk is a special opportunity to raise awareness of dementia/mate wareware and show support for people living with dementia and their whānau.

83,000 people in New Zealand are currently living with dementia, with around three people developing dementia every hour. This number is expected to reach an estimated 170,000 by 2050.

Behind these statistics are people, families and whānau – each with their own stories, relationships, experiences and goals. By joining the walk, you are sending a simple but powerful message: people living with dementia belong in our community, and they do not have to walk this journey alone.

The 3km walk is designed to be welcoming and accessible. There are park benches along the way, and participants are welcome to walk the full route or simply join for part of it. Everyone is welcome.

You might walk alongside someone living with dementia, in memory of someone special, with your family and friends, or simply show your support. However you take part, every step helps create a more understanding and supportive community.

Alzheimers Whanganui is incredibly grateful for the ongoing support of the Whanganui community. Funds raised through the Memory Walk help provide local support, education, meaningful activities and programmes for people living with dementia/mate wareware and their whānau.

The event will also include the draw for Alzheimers Whanganui's raffle, with three fantastic prizes generously supported by local businesses:

- 1st: A beautiful glass piece by Katie Brown
- 2nd: 55" Panasonic TV
- 3rd: Food & Lifestyle Hamper

Raffle tickets are $10 and are available from Alzheimers Whanganui. You do not need to attend the Memory Walk to be in the draw.

Walk registration is open now, or you can register on the day. Entry is $10 per person.

Come along, bring your whānau and friends, and be part of a community that values, includes and walks alongside people living with dementia.

Saturday 19 September | 10.30am | Bearing Sculpture, Whanganui River | $10 per person

For more information or to register, contact Alzheimers Whanganui on 06 345 8833 or register online at https://events.humanitix.com/2026-memory-walk



Every step shows support. Every person makes a difference.

- Dementia support group set up -

Four women with experience of family members having dementia meet once a month at a member's house to support each other. Their motto is "Care, Share, and Carry On.' They want to reach out to others who are in a similar situation and would like to join them.

Three of the four were happy to discuss their situation with the RCP. The fourth was absent that day.

Marlene noticed back in the 1990s her mother was showing signs of confusion and then one day, "She stopped her car in the middle of a roundabout so that she could look for something in the car." The family contacted the police, and this led to the end of her mother's driving. "It was difficult for her, but it was the safest thing to do."

Marlene's parents lived in Waikanae, where Marlene also lived. In 2009, she was employed as an activities coordinator in a dementia facility and started training for Advanced Age Care, Dementia ad Diversional Therapy, qualifying in 2014.

In 2016, Marlene moved to Whanganui and her parents followed later in the year. But as Marlene says, "It was really too late for mother, and probably compounded her confusion. They lived in a villa at Kōwhainui, but her mother was soon admitted into care, deteriorated quickly and died in 2018. Marlene meanwhile got a job working for Alzheimer's Whanganui, retiring at the end of 2019, "but kept myself in the loop."

Janne and Brian have been married for 65 years, but recently she noted that Brian was becoming noticeably forgetful. On a holiday trip, he became quite panicky about whether they were on the right platform or the right train.



Janne, Sally and Marlene

Brian joined Alzheimer's Whanganui programmes for men such as bus trips and 'Pool & Pint', at the St Johns Club designed to help men mix and to foster friendships. However, Brian 'escaped' a number of times to come home where he felt secure.

Janne points out, "His final escapade was to leave Kowhainui, where he was having respite care. Kowhainui facility is not a secure facility for dementia residents; hence he couldn't continue to stay."

His mobility deteriorated, and caregivers came to shower him (he couldn't control the temperature of the water). Jan could still have two hours per day respite by continuing to teach at a kindergarten, which she loved.

However, one day she had to call St John Ambulance ("the staff were absolutely commendable"). After a stint in hospital, Brian went to Okere House, a completely secure facility where he could be almost normal. She describes the carers there as "absolutely brilliant."

"I did a course with Alzheimer's – the best thing I ever did. I learn that there is a lot of letting go that a carer has to do. I also had to experience the loneliness after they go to a home."

Sally and Les likewise have been married for a long time – 63 years. When Les developed Alzheimer's, initially, Sally could look after him. "Looking back, there was a lot of not admitting that things were not right. Eventually everything happened in a rush. My biggest fear was what would happen to him if something happened to me."

After Les went to a home, "the isolation, emptiness hit me. I still reach out to him in bed and talk to him and then realise that he is not there."

The idea of a Dementia Support Group was initiated by Marlene, who says, "The small group happened like magic, three gatherings later and the group wants it to remain small – maximum of about eight.

Their next meeting is on Thursday, 24 September, 10am. If you want to find out more, contact Marlene on 022 650 2514 or email her at marz1zen2@gmail.com.

Alzheimers New Zealand Whanganui
MEMORY Walk
Walk together. Remember together.
A 3km community walk honouring people living with dementia/mate wareware, supporting whānau and bringing our community together
Saturday 19 September 2026
10:30am | Whanganui River Market | Meet at Silver Bearing (Sphere)
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Public invited to Sonja Wilson Memorial Scholarships performance competition

Every year in September, the IRMT Wanganui branch runs its major performance competition, the Sonja Wilson Memorial Scholarships, for young musicians of Grade 6 and above. This event was established in 2005 in memory of Sonja Wilson, the IRMT Chairperson for several years and a well-known pianist and teacher in the region. Since then, the competition has expanded to include further awards and trophies in memory of local musicians and teachers – the Nita Oldham Award for the most promising singer, the Clarice Weir Scholarship for most promising string player and the Judy Barrett Memorial Cup for "outstanding piano performance".

There are two parts to this annual event, held this year on Saturday, 19 September (preliminaries), and Monday, 21 September (finals).

The preliminary rounds, adjudicated this year by Mr Paul Ellery, pianist, teacher, NZMEB examiner and former HoD of Music at Nga Tawa School, will take place on Saturday, 19 September, at St Paul's Church Hall, Cooks St.

The recitals will begin at 9.30am with eight Senior class (Grade 8+ students) preliminary round recitals, from which 5 finalists who then go on to perform a 15 minute programme in the Prince Edward Auditorium, Wanganui Collegiate School, will be selected. Following on , at 11.45am, are the Intermediate recitals, Grades 6 + 7 level.

There are 18 young musicians taking part in the Intermediate class, a testament to the depth of talent here in Whanganui. There will be a lunch break at 1pm, and the recitals will continue from 2pm, finishing at approximately 4pm. The winners of this class, plus the Clarice Weir scholarship, Nita Oldham Trophy and Judy Barrett Cup, will perform alongside the five finalists on Monday, 21 September, at 7pm in the Prince Edward Auditorium of Whanganui Collegiate School.

The prize money for the competitors is sponsored by the Whanganui Male Voice Choir, Wanganui Music Society, Chamber Music Whanganui, and the Community Choir.

The adjudicator for this year's finals is Bridget Bisley, well-known composer, conductor and violin teacher from Hawera. Both the preliminary recitals and the finals are open to the public with a very nominal door charge. Come along and support these talented and dedicated young people.

The details are:

Preliminaries Saturday, September 19, 9.30am – 4pm. St Paul's Church Hall, Cooks St.

Entry (cash only, please) One session - Adults 8.00, students 5.00

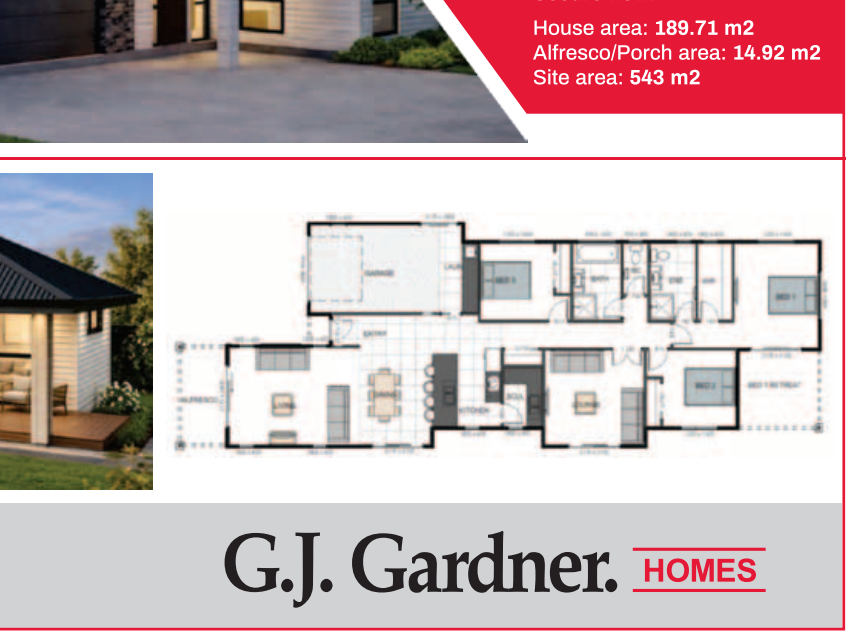
Both sessions – Adults 10.00, students 5.00

Children under 10 yrs FREE

Finals: Monday, September 21, at 7pm. Prince Edward Auditorium. (parking in Grey St)

Adults $15, students $5 (no eftpos)

Children under 10 yrs FREE



Last year's Intermediate winners with Christine Archer-Lockwood, who was the adjudicator. Left to right: Leah Thomson, Juliana Burgstaller, Helena Burgstaller and Lydia Kong - all playing again this year.

Training For You starts Te Hīkoi Tupu Course for young people

Training for You in Ingestre Street initiated Te Hīkoi Tupu on 15 September with a meeting for participants, their whānau and representatives from Government agencies such as the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Social Development.

Te Hīkoi Tupu is a programme which supports young people aged 15 to 24 who are currently not in work, study, or training. It is a personalised, wrap-around programme that focuses on well-being, confidence, life skills, literacy and numeracy and work readiness, helping learners move into sustainable employment, education or training pathways.

The programme will run from Monday, starting 21 September, to Thursday from 9am to 2.30pm for up to 26 weeks. Participants can refer themselves or be referred by an agency. Students aged 15 will have left school and been referred by the Ministry of Education by way of exemption, or other agencies. There is no cost to the participants.



The group on 15 September.

The programme is designed around the individual needs of each learner, recognising that everyone's journey is different. Through mentoring, practical support and strong connections with employers and education providers, the programme aims to give rangatahi the tools and confidence to achieve their goals and build a positive future.

The success of the learners is strengthened by the support of local businesses, employers and community organisations who offer work experience, industry exposure and employment opportunities.

There will be opportunities to assist participants to obtain driver's licences and certificates such as in First Aid. On completion, each graduate will receive a certificate.

The tutors Katrina and Chris told the RCP that it will be a rolling intake, and newcomers are welcome to come to the Training for You office to register.

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Secure now.
House area: **184.36 m2**
Porch area: **1.74 m2**
Site area: **582 m2**









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Spring Renovations

Outdoor living

Paved areas play a special role in summer garden spaces. They are particularly useful in areas of high traffic. For instance, the threshold between house and garden needs a hard-wearing surface to cope with the intensity of traffic. Paving also carries the eyes from the house out to the garden. It is a half-way space.

By itself paving can be hot and glaring during the middle of summer. Small courtyards often depend on water in some form to counter this harshness and make the space more livable. Another method is to use pergolas draped with climbing plants to create a shaded space. Deciduous climbers, in particular, make paving areas useful sun traps during winter when we crave the sun's warmth, and create pools of shade during summer.

Paving stores the sun's heat during the day and radiates it back at night, making a paved area very pleasant for entertaining.

Decks are also useful summer places. These also deal with high traffic areas, and can provide a level living area on sloping ground. They are most commonly attached to a house as a transition space to the rest of the garden. However, they can also be used as a free standing summer space remote from the house, particularly to make use of an area of sloping ground.

Use pine (radiata or macrocarpa) or New Zealand-grown eucalypt for decking. These timbers provide a range of appearances and are environmentally friendly.

The Bed Barn backs Whanganui with move to historic Old Treasury building

The Bed Barn has moved its Whanganui showroom to a larger and more prominent location in the historic Old Treasury Building at 98 Victoria Avenue, next to Majestic Square.

The impressive heritage building provides a fitting new home for a business that has been making beds locally for 38 years, and is continuing to invest in its future.

Andrei, who owns The Bed Barn with his wife Rose, says one of the businesse's biggest points of difference is that it is a manufacturer as well as a retailer.

"We're really a local manufacturer that happens to have stores, rather than simply a store that sells beds," he says.

The company makes its mattresses and bases at its own Palmerston North factory, where its showroom staff also spend time learning how the beds are made.

"Our team understands beds and can make recommendations based on what each individual customer actually needs. It's about finding the right bed for each person."

Another important part of that philosophy is The Bed Barn's one-year comfort trial. If a customer finds their mattress too firm or too soft during the first year, The Bed Barn can adjust its comfort at the factory.

"Choosing a mattress is very personal, and you don't really know how it will feel until you've actually slept on it," Andrei says. "The comfort trial gives people peace of mind and shows that we genuinely care about getting it right."

The factory uses New Zealand wool underlay, bamboo fabric, Italian pocket springs, high-density New Zealand-made foam and New Zealand timber for its bed bases. The company also specialises in custom-made mattresses, including beds for caravans and motorhomes, which it supplies throughout New Zealand.

For Andrei and Rose, their connection with The Bed Barn actually began as customers.



The new home for The Bed Barn

After a mattress they had purchased from a large retailer lasted only around three years, friends and family repeatedly recommended they try The Bed Barn. At the time, the couple had recently welcomed their first child and were considering buying a business of their own to give them greater flexibility as a family.

After buying a mattress and being impressed with the business, they told the owners that if they ever decided to sell, they would be interested.

"Six months later, we received an email asking if we were still interested - and that's how it all started," Andrei says.

More than four years later, Andrei and Rose have continued to build on The Bed Barn's 38-year history, relocating the factory to larger premises, expanding the range, and modernising the company's website, presentation and branding.

The move into the Old Treasury Building represents another important step.

"We see a lot of potential in Whanganui and we're excited about its future," Andrei says. "Whanganui has backed The Bed Barn for years, and now we're backing Whanganui. We don't just want to have a shop here – we want to be part of the community."

The Bed Barn is now at 98 Victoria Avenue, Whanganui, in the Old Treasury Building next to Majestic Square.

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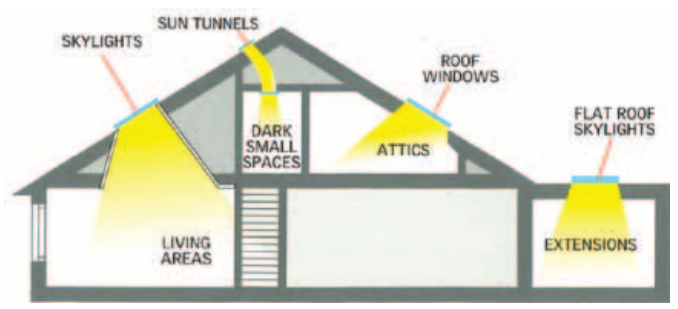

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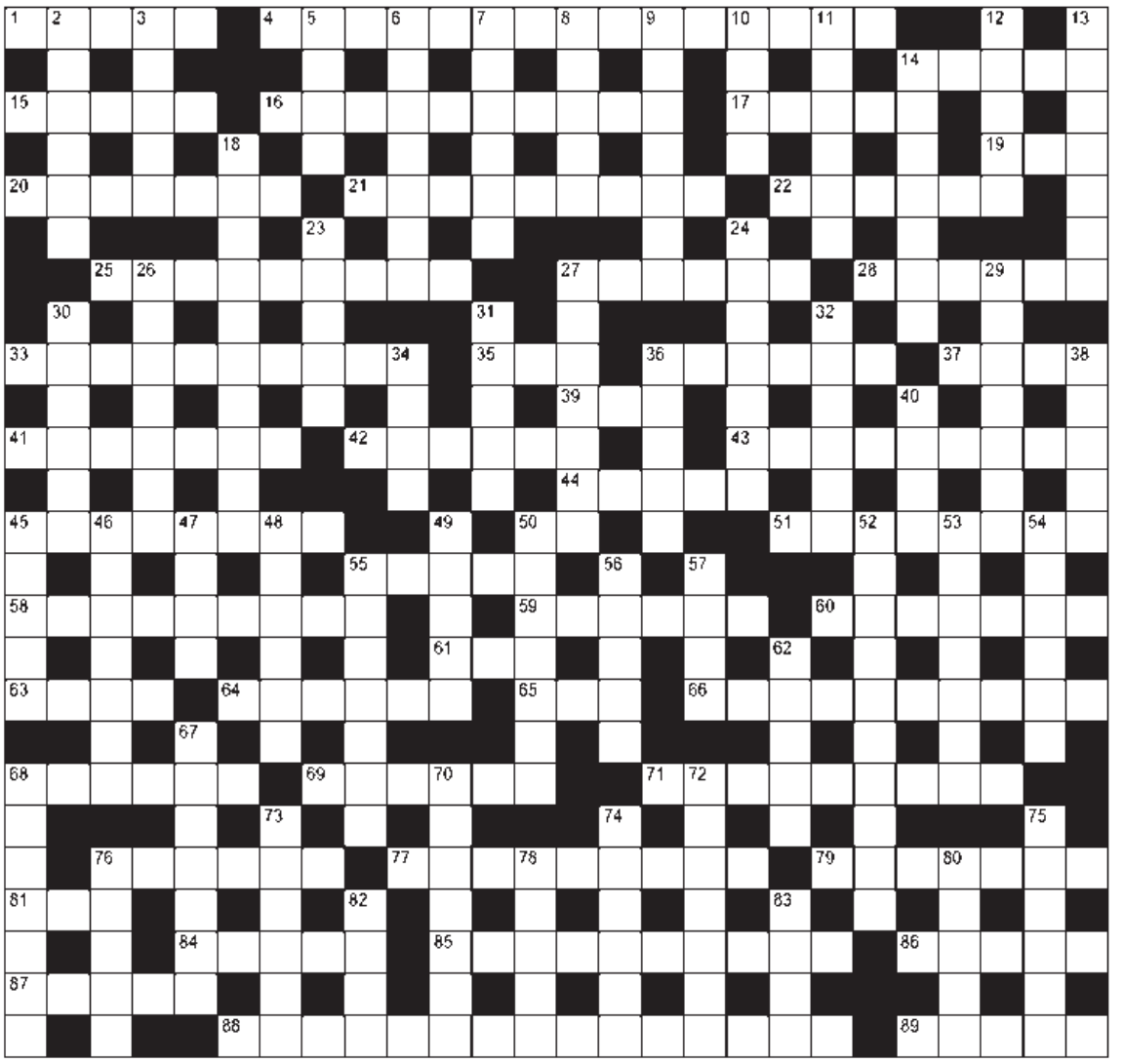
Jumbo crossword

ACROSS

1 Matching set of furniture (5)
4 Attack imaginary enemies or evils (4,2,9)
14 Empty (5)
15 Imitate (5)
16 Absurd (10)
17 Spear (5)
19 Pixie (3)
20 Viewpoint (7)
21 Alternative route due to road closure (9)
22 Begrudged (6)
25 Platform for musicians (9)
27 Longing (6)
28 Sell door to door (6)
33 Expressed as a recipe (10)
35 Entirely (3)
36 Warfare (6)
37 Eager (4)
39 Age (3)
41 Catching up (7)
42 Sanctuary (6)
43 Nominee (9)
44 Combine (5)
45 Maximum (8)
50 Egyptian sun god (2)
51 Lacking due decency (8)
55 Backbone (5)
58 Flat case for drawings (9)
59 Nuclear (6)
60 Rider's footrest (7)
61 Slippery fish (3)
63 Deduct from wages (4)
64 Completely lacking (6)
65 Annoy (3)
66 Non-vowels (10)
68 Playground plank (6)
69 Threefold (6)
71 Colleague (9)
76 Contributing element (6)
77 Bearable (9)
79 Motorcycle bag (7)
81 Imminent (3)
84 Dance club (5)
85 Not clear or sharply defined (10)
86 Stale-smelling (5)
87 Uncanny (5)
88 Holiday postcard message (4,3,4,4)
89 Crooked (5)

DOWN

2 Without equal or like (6)
3 Warble (5)
5 Flower (4)
6 Instruction, coaching (7)
7 Artificial hairpiece (6)
8 Metal shackles (5)
9 Tyrants (7)
10 Doing nothing (4)
11 Interior coating (6)
12 Lost colour (5)
13 Head cold (7)
14 Invented (7)
18 Expression of sympathy (10)
23 Declare (5)
24 Pull a face (7)
26 Pungent gas (7)
27 Quandary (7)
29 Stray from normal (7)
30 Empty, boastful talk (3,3)
31 Building dividers (5)
32 Large wine bottle (6)
34 Twilight (4)
36 Transport (5)
38 Resided (5)
40 Floor covering (4)
45 Stared in astonishment (5)
46 Head pain (7)
47 Bean curd (4)
48 Retailer (6)
49 Dismissed (5)
50 See (7)
52 Systematic (10)
53 Hibernating (7)
54 Daring manoeuvres (6)
55 Temporary stay (7)
56 Set of accounts (5)
57 Rustproof metal (4)
62 Amalgamation (5)
67 Striped identifier on stock (3,4)
68 Examined (7)
70 Condition in contract (7)
72 Egocentric (7)
73 Miniaturised tree (6)
74 Mooring cable (6)
75 Shelled insect (6)
76 Passenger boat (5)
78 Bestow (5)
80 Naming words (5)
82 Night flier (4)
83 Wound mark (4)





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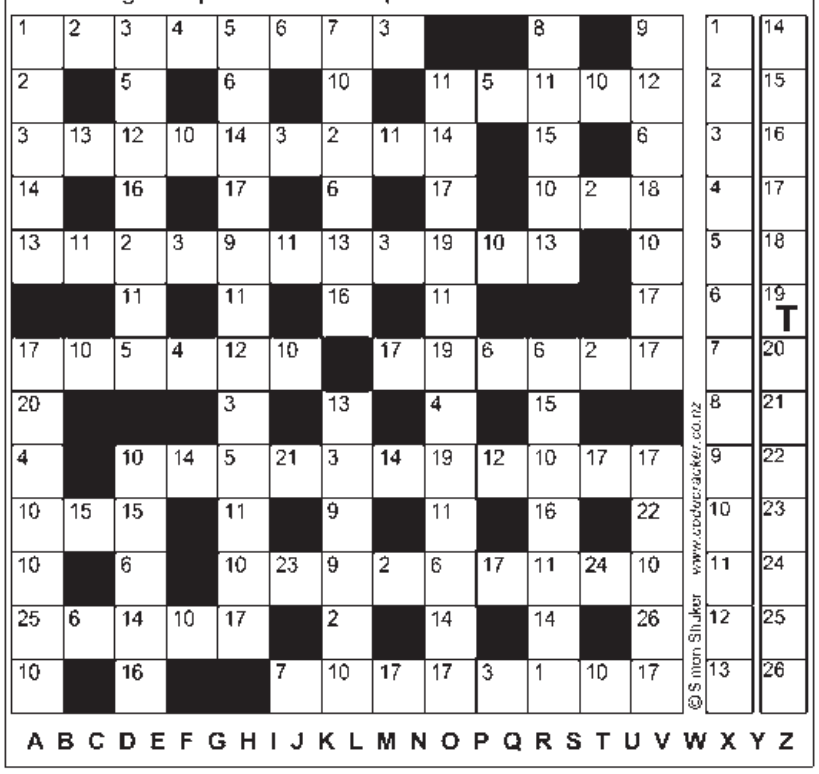
EACH number in our Code-Cracker grid represents a different letter of the alphabet. For example, today 19 represents T, so fill in T every time the figure 19 appears. You have one letter in the control grid to start you off. Enter it in the appropriate squares in the main grid and solve the starter word. 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

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

EASY

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

Previous solution

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

Previous solution

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

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

Previous crossword solution

ACROSS: 1 Abyss, 4 One of the family, 11 Inlet, 14 Troll, 15 Susceptible, 16 Scotland, 19 Headway, 20 Manse, 21 Investing, 24 Backwards, 26 Trivia, 27 Vigour, 31 Ennui, 32 Diatribe, 34 Permanence, 38 Derided, 39 Signal, 40 Cleans, 41 Wart, 42 Hanging, 45 Assessment, 50 Starter, 54 Loud, 55 Ripple, 56 Ranges, 57 Seaweed, 60 Deep-seated, 61 Polished, 62 Forge, 65 Clutch, 66 Strips, 67 Milkshake, 72 Corrected, 73 Circa, 74 Varnish, 79 Elevated, 80 Compromised, 81 Freed, 82 Laugh, 83 Second thoughts, 84 Sense.
DOWN: 2 Barber, 3 Salad, 5 Nous, 6 Orchard, 7 Typist, 8 Evil, 9 Atlantic, 10 Yachts, 11 Intentions, 12 Lead, 13 Toddler, 17 Tacky, 18 Retirement, 22 Basic, 23 Downcast, 25 Amusing, 26 Trellis, 28 Angela, 29 Fiancé, 30 Amends, 33 Trips, 35 Enter, 36 Fern, 37 Acne, 42 Holed, 43 Nauseous, 44 Guitar, 45 Apprentice, 46 Stew, 47 Scrapes, 48 Mangle, 49 Needs, 51 Tier, 52 Rowlock, 53 Emerge, 58 Psychopath, 59 Gecko, 63 Time-worn, 64 Wheat, 65 Conceal, 68 Itching, 69 Creeps, 70 Gigolo, 71 Assess, 75 Nerve, 76 Menu, 77 Spit, 78 Kept.

5x5

	M		L	
T		M		R
	S		D	
L		D		E
	N		E	

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	T	A	V	E
L	A	T	I	N
A	B	O	R	T
S	O	L	A	R
H	O	L	L	Y

WHAT'S ON IN THE COMMUNITY

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.

Be quick.
There is just time between now and the end of the year to get your computer skills up to date. UCOL has a free computer skills course to help you. Great facilities, friendly atmosphere and lots of help for beginners. Pick up a brochure or call UCOL on 0800 468 265 today.

Bereaved by Suicide Support Group
To support others by understanding their pain as we still walk in ours. Next meeting, Sunday 20 September, 1pm-3pm, Dempsey and Forrest, Hatrick Street entrance. Contact Neil at suicidebereavedby@gmail.com 022-475-82

Community Education Whanganui
Community Education Whanganui offers a wide range of creative learning classes, including art in various mediums, cooking, music, yoga, AI, Italian, woodwork, bonsai and more. If there's a topic you'd like to learn, or if you're a tutor interested in sharing your knowledge, contact Mel. Phone 06 345 4717 or email admin@communityeducation.co.nz.

Enrol today in our free course!
You still have time between now and the end of the year to get your computer skills on track. Learn how to format documents in Word, create charts with Excel and put together PowerPoint presentations. Pick up a brochure or call UCOL on 0800 468 265 today.

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.

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 rivercitypickleball-nz@gmail.com

Matarawa Community Church
A warm welcome awaits you if you can join us on Sunday 20th September at our beautiful wee church at 2.00pm. Followed, of course, by afternoon tea.

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

Schola Sacra Choir
presents Purcell's Dido and Aeneas in concert form, also solos by Iain Tetley. Accompanied by Richard Sparks. Saturday 20 Sept., 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. 19th September 10:30 Meditation with Local Medium Gillian Shaw. A grounding, inspired session guided by Gillian's gentle presence. 59 Victoria Ave Whanganui 063455002

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 21 September 7pm: DIRTY HARRY (1971, R16) Clint Eastwood stars as a maverick detective pursuing a serial killer in Don Siegel's controversial crime classic. Davis Theatre, Watts St. Members only. Join at nzfilmsociety.org.nz/whanganui.html

Whanganui Vintage Fair
Retro, Antiques, Collectables, Vintage Clothing including modern brands. Books, toys, jewellery, metalware, carpets, furniture, pottery, art, china, Crown Lynn, glassware, coins, bottles, kitchenalia, paintings. Food and Cafe onsite. Springvale Stadium, October 25th (Sunday) 9.30-3.30 $2 entry. Ample parking. A great day out. Something for everyone. FB: Whanganui Vintage Fair.

Meridian opens biggest-ever $3m Decarbonisation Fund



Pictured is a mock up of what the installation of solar panels will look like on the Hospice Whanganui building, one of last year's successful applicants. Due to delays with shipping through the Strait of Hormoz, product has been delayed. They are almost there though, just awaiting approvals from PowerCo, so hopefully within the next two months they should have them installed.

Meridian Energy had launched the 2026 Decarbonisation Fund: making up to $3 million available to community groups across Aotearoa to decarbonise parts of their operations.

The fund helps community organisations swap fossil fuels for electric alternatives, paying for things like solar panels and batteries, electric vehicles, electric boilers and battery-powered tools. This year's funding pool is 50% larger than ever before.

The boost comes as electrifying the New Zealand economy has become a key election issue, with most parties committing to policies to promote renewable solar generation.

For community groups across the country, it's often the upfront cost that makes the switch difficult.

"We've put $4.73 million into community projects since 2022 and demand keeps growing, so this year we're tipping in an extra $1 million of our own money to back more bright ideas than ever," said Lisa Hannifin, Chief Customer Officer at Meridian.

"People sometimes assume a fund like this is just for solar panels or EVs. It's not. If your project swaps fossil fuels for electricity, whether that's a van, a boiler, a pool pump or something we've never seen before, we want to hear about it. And we're especially keen to back groups supporting people doing it tough."

"One of my favourite grants last round was battery-powered tools for volunteers restoring neglected graves. Nobody saw that one coming, and it's exactly the kind of thinking this fund exists for. Somewhere out there is a group with an idea even better than that, and we'd love to support it."

In 2025 the fund distributed $1.8 million to 37 groups from Tai Tokerau to Otago.

Some of the projects include solar on the roof of Hospice Whanganui and Palmerston North food rescue pioneer Just Zilch, an electric ute for conservation work at Living Springs in Whakaraupō Lyttelton Harbour, and an EV on the road for weekly kai parcels in West Auckland.

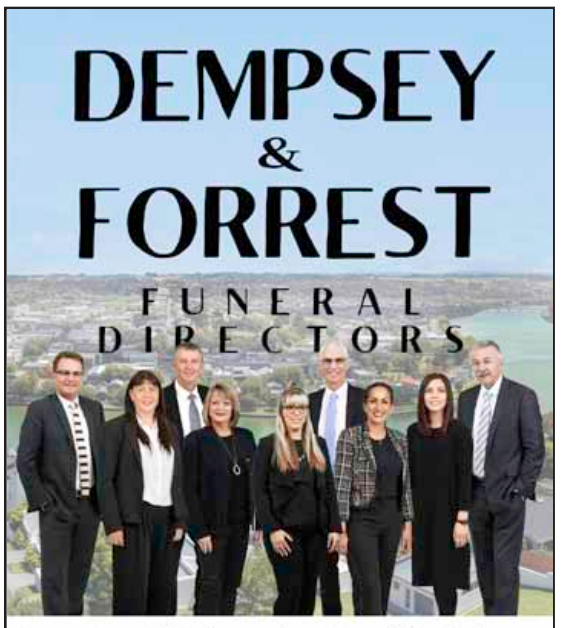
The fund is powered by Meridian's Certified Renewable Energy product, which lets businesses match their electricity use with power generated by Meridian's BraveTrace-verified renewable hydro and wind assets.

Applications are now open and close on 12 October 2026. Community groups can apply at https://www.meridianenergy.co.nz/community-decarbonisation-fund, and access a free guide on what makes a strong application.

Successful applicants will be notified in November.

"The best part of this job is telling a group they've been funded. This year, we get to deliver more of that good news than ever before, so get your application in and give us the chance," said Lisa Hannifin.

"Every dollar a community group doesn't spend on power or fuel is a dollar that goes back into feeding people, supporting whānau or restoring nature. If you've got a bright idea, we want to hear it."



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Recent Bereavements



Sadly passed away recently...

Patrick Arthur BULLOCK,
on 13 September 2026, aged 85 years.
Joyce Eileen GULLERY,
on 13 September 2026, aged 92 years.
Anne Therese KEATING,
on 10 September 2026, aged 75 years.
Jim McQUILLAN,
on 11 September 2026, aged 65 years.
Ngaire Joan McCULLOCH,
on 13 September 2026, aged 90 years.

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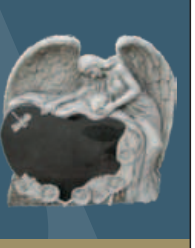
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OBITUARY: Jay Kutin

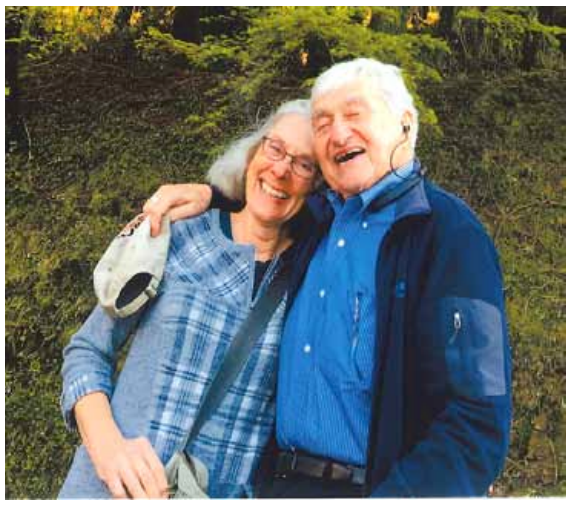
Jay Kuten who died in July this year "five hours short of his 90th birthday," was well known in Whanganui, especially as an opinion writer for the Whanganui Chronicle and more recently for the River City Press.

He was born in Vienna in 1936. His father, Arthur, who had come to Austria from Poland, was a tailor, and his mother was Claire. He had a sister, Mina, who was five years older. The family was Jewish and were successful in getting visas to go to the USA, leaving on the last boat out of Europe from Marseilles, France, on April 19, 1939.

Arthur soon set up a tailoring business while also selling used clothes. Jay became his apprentice – briefly.

At school, Jay got the nickname of 'Julius the Genius.' (This was his given name, which at some stage he changed to Jay) The nickname was accurate as Jay went to the University of Chicago when he was only 14. His wife Susan Roon says, "At university he found more acceptance, independence and learning – he was always learning."

After gaining a medical degree, followed up by psychiatric and forensic qualifications, Jay worked in private practice. Susan describes how "a young woman representative on a health insurance company phoned him at his clinic. He put her on speaker. She asked him why he was still seeing this patient suggesting the person should be given medication instead. The patient remarked to Jay – 'You are not long for this practice.'"



Jay and Susan on a recent visit to Japan

He and Susan decided to leave the US, and he was interviewed in person for the position of Director of Mental Health at Standford House, Whanganui Hospital. A significant attraction was the availability of fly fishing in New Zealand, which both of them loved.

Arriving in 1996, Jay was not happy that patients were spending too much time watching TV and decided to introduce different activities, for which he asked Susan to lead (Susan had a background in art and art education).

She says, "I found out that they wanted to write. Initially it was about their own lives but soon led to them writing a newsletter for the unit, with one patient doing cartoons."

After two years, Jay left Stanford House. As they enjoyed living in Whanganui and as Jay was involved with Whanganui Rotary, they decided to stay on.

Jay started writing his columns for the Chronicle which were always well researched, challenging, with plenty of wry comments, and a good sense of humour. When the Chronicle stopped using most of their opinion writers, Jay wrote for the RCP instead. Even if you disagreed with his perspective, they were always worth reading.

They returned to the USA regularly for Jay to do locums in Alaska, California, Idaho and Massachusetts, preferably close to places with fly fishing. On their last trip, Jay had a stroke and eventually, back in Whanganui, died of "multiple organ failures."

Susan tells a story about Jay and his favourite saying of "The show must go on." Lizzie de Vegt was his singing coach, and when she organised a concert with her pupils, Jay was determined to sing in it. So despite not being too well and only one month before he died, Jay sang accompanied by Lizzie and Hamish Jellyman.

Jay is survived by Susan, his son and two of Susan's children, plus family, who Susan says, "I miss terribly."

Guyton Group Trust announces winning entries for Annual Poetry Competition

The Guyton Group Trust is delighted to reveal the winning entries for its annual poetry competition, in which writers of all ages were invited to explore this year's theme: celebrating our awa/river.

Poets and emerging writers were encouraged to submit work in any style or format, with bilingual entries warmly welcomed. The Trust has developed a partnership with an established writer to act as an external judge for the competition each year. During the selection process, the judge said that they were looking for entries that captured a personal reaction, a feeling of immediacy, and of relationship with the river.

The winning entry in the 16 years and over section is, *Te Awa Whanganui O Te Ora: The Living River of Whanganui* by Sonya Kaire-Judson; with the under 16 year category being awarded to *The River in Spring* by Gwen Owen. A highly commended entry in the adult category was also selected this year with *Medicine River* by Patsy Deverall.



Sonya Kaire-Judson



Gwen Owen

The selections were revealed on National Poetry Day on Friday 28 August, at a celebration Poetry Party held at the Davis Library. Fortunately, the winners and highly commended awardee were in attendance to read their selected entries. Audience members were also invited to share their own poetry or to read a favourite poem by another author.

A copy of the winning entries will be available for viewing via the Love Guyton Street page on Facebook and at Paige's Book Gallery. It is also hoped that these poems will become part of the developing poetry trail along Guyton Street that celebrates local as well as national writers.

The Guyton Group Trust would like to acknowledge the support of the Grumpy Old Men Enterprises who donated a prize for the winning junior entry, and Paige's Book Gallery who have donated book vouchers to the winning adult and highly commended entry, as well as to the judge. The Trust would also like to thank everyone who entered the competition. It is heartening to see the local interest in poetry as well as the talent within our community.

For more information, follow 'Love Guyton Street' on Facebook or email Guyton Group Trust Chairperson, Carla Donson: carladonson@gmail.com

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BEREAVEMENT NOTICE

Jim McQuillan

Passed away peacefully at home 11th September 2026 after a bravely fought battle.

Loved husband, soulmate and best friend of Anne.

Loved step-dad of Karyn, Brenton and Aimee. Loved Poppa Jim of Lily. Father of Micheal and Connor.

Fly free my love until we meet again.

A service will be held at Dempsey and Forrest Chapel Saturday 19th Sept. at 12noon followed by a private cremation.

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Women's Refuge Wanganui..... 344 2204

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NEW books available at River City Press, 52 Ingestre St. "Whimsical Tales of Old Wanganui"; "More Whimsical Tales of Old Wanganui". All proceeds go to Alzheimers Whanganui.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

SECTION 101
SALE AND SUPPLY OF ALCOHOL ACT 2012

Zen Takeaway Limited, 22-26 Victoria Avenue, Whanganui has made application to the District Licensing Committee at Whanganui for **a renewal of an On Licence** in respect of the premises situated at 26 Victoria Avenue, Whanganui known as the **Momiji Japanese Restaurant & Cafe.**

The general nature of the business to be conducted under the licence is as a **Cafe/Restaurant.**

The days on which and the hours during which alcohol is sold under the licence are **Monday to Sunday, 9.00am to 11.00pm.**

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 issue of the licence 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 Secretary of the District Licensing Committee at DLCadministration@whanganui.govt.nz.

No objection to the renewal of a licence may be made in relation to a matter other than a matter specified in section 131 of the Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012.

This is the only publication of this notice.

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IN YOUR COMMUNITY

IHC Whanganui Association AGM

5.30pm MONDAY, 19 OCTOBER
46 Alma Road, Alma Gardens

Guest Speaker:
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Light refreshments served

Contact: Linda Keith
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Request for Expressions of Interest to Market Property
Of Interest to Real Estate Agencies / Licensed Real Estate Companies

The Whanganui Group of the Riding for the Disabled Association Inc. (WRDA) is seeking expressions of interest from experienced and licensed real estate companies to market and sell their property. We are inviting Real Estate Agencies to submit an outline of your proposed marketing approach, relevant experience, fee structure, and the services you would provide to achieve the best possible outcome.

Property Details
Property address/location: **237 London Street Whanganui**
Property type: **Residential**
Approximate land area: **1.6980 hectares**
Record of title: **676968**
Approximate floor area: **570sqm**
Number of bedrooms/bathrooms: **N/A**
Current occupancy/status: **Vacant**
Preferred sale timeframe: **Three Months**

We would appreciate receiving a written proposal that includes your recommended method of sale, indicative marketing strategy, anticipated marketing costs, proposed commission or fee structure, recent comparable sales or relevant market evidence, and the names and experience of the agents who would manage the campaign.

Please also include any recommendations you may have regarding presentation, timing, pricing strategy, and the likely buyer market for the property.

Expressions of interest should be submitted by **5pm Wednesday 23rd September 2026** to **kelvin@oconnorproject.co.nz**

Should you require access to inspect the property before submitting your proposal, please contact O'Connor Project to arrange a suitable time. We look forward to receiving your proposal and considering your agency's interest in marketing the property.

Kelvin D. O'Connor
Project Manager for WRDA

LAKE WIRITOA

Maritime NZ and the Wanganui Water Ski Club advise that the boating area will be closed from dawn Monday 28th September to 5pm Friday 2nd October for the NZ Tournament Water Ski Association Coaching School

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34 Treadwell Street	$495,000	1.00 - 1.30pm
25 Stark Street	$579,000	2.00 - 2.30pm
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SPORTS NEWS

Team registrations are now open for the cricket season

Summer is just around the corner, and things are looking sharp up at Tasman Tanning, Victoria Park, after a full sprinkler restoration across all blocks, including the troublesome No. 1 Block outfield, now looking mint. Thanks to the Four Regions Trust and Whanganui District Council for funding, and Redstar, Brent Hantz Irrigation, and Fulton Hogan for the work. Ngā mihi nui!

In 2026/27, a piece of our heritage returns: the 1953/54 Hawke Cup-winning Whanganui Cricket Association logo. It will roll out gradually across our pathway sides over coming seasons, featuring this year on our senior representative kits, new caps and wide brims, and our official marketing. Ka Mua, ka muri, looking back in order to move forward, is also the whakataukī behind our new 2026 to 2029 Strategic Plan, building on our 2023 to 2026 interim plan.

Team registrations are now open across Senior and Junior grades, closing October 2.

Senior Cricket

Senior cricket starts October 17. In an exciting change, Manawatu Premier 1 sides will join the Coastal Challenge over this summer in separate competitions. Premier 2 and 3 continue with T20 before Christmas and 30/40 over after.

Junior Cricket

Junior cricket kicks off with Secondary T16 on Thursday, October 15, Kiwi Cricket and Year 5/6 hard ball on Friday, October 16, and Year 7/8 on Saturday, October 18.

Women's and Girls' Cricket

Come and experience women's and girls' training with our Friday night Legends crew, from 4 to 6pm, by skill level. Also look out for girls smash hubs around the district.

Masters Cricket

Whanganui hosts the Downer NZ Masters Games, from February 5 to 14, 2027. With 35+ men in 11-a-side or 8-a-side T20, and 27+ women in 8-a-side T20. Registrations open October 1.

Last Man Stands Twilights

Monday night Twilights kick off with Last Man Stands (LMS) T20 from 5:30pm to 7:30pm, starting October 26, and run over summer. It's a fun, modified 8-a-side format, perfect for new or returning players.

Advanced Foundation Coaching Course

Our Advanced Foundation Coaching Course is coming up on September 20, free of charge, from 1 to 3pm.

Whether you're after a competitive summer, a return to the game, or a great Monday night with mates, there's a place for you this season. If you need more information about any of our formats, email contact@cricket-whanganui.co.nz. - Peter GM Cricket Whanganui.

CRICKET WHANGANUI

Whanganui Deerstalkers Hunting course attracts four women and three men



Briar, Connor and Laura

The Hunting course, run by the local Whanganui Deerstalkers group, has attracted four women and three men, and is currently halfway through, culminating with a hunting weekend in October/November.

Rod Hart from the group says, "We have had sessions on ethics, navigating, hunting gear, field dressing of animals (gut, dress and cut up), and firearm safety." On Saturday they were at one of the rifle clubs to do some training on shooting. The next practical session will be an overnight one doing guided hunting. Further sessions include river crossing, safety in the hills and field craft.

The RCP met up with three of the trainees – Briar, Laura and Connor.

Briar has been hunting on and off for about 20 years, but this is the first course she has attended. She says, "I wanted to learn proper techniques, meet new people and go out hunting with the deerstalkers group."

Laura described herself as "A 46-year -old mother of four with an interest in hunting." She did a weekend course with the 'Wild Chicks' group which involved 14 women in the Kaimanawas. "It was a good introduction, leading me to joining Deerstalkers. I have learnt a lot over six months and have met more locals."

Connor is 17, and has been hunting since he was five, shooting rabbits at his grandfather's farm. "Mum has a 308 and a gun licence. Dad doesn't like hunting, but me and my two younger brothers do." He has appreciated learning about gun and hunting safety.

The group advised that you need to be 16 to obtain a gun licence, and warned that it can take a long time, even to renew your licence. Rod explained that you can buy a secondhand rifle and scope for about $600, but they can go up to over $2,500. The cost of the course itself is $500.

Rod suggests the main reasons for hunting is to bring back protein and to enjoy the outdoors. There is also the conservation side, helping farmers and the country to eliminate pests, which include goats and peacocks.

For more information about the Whanganui Deerstalkers contact Rod on 021 638 545.

Bridge Club results

Whanganui Bridge Club results Week ending 11 September

Monday Ladder: **N/S** 1. M Hoek R Rawson 58.38 2. V Kay O Jones 57.97 3. K Coombe S Kuehne 54.97 **E/W** 1. I Kelly P McDonald 68.36 2. R Collins L Eyles 55.24 3. T Jones B Patrick 54.56

Tuesday IMPs Leaders after Round 10: 1. R & D Nightingale K & P Verhoek 140.95 2. G Paulger N Bartrum A Thirtle G Handley 119.68 3. S Walkinton J Nielsen K McIlraith R Austin 117.88

Wednesday IMPs Leaders after Round 5: 1. R Campbell C Winton T Gunasekara R Ansell 75.16 K & S Rainey R Terrey B Eriksen 70.86

Overall Winners of Wednesday IMPs: Robyn Campbell, Carane Winton, Tilina Gunasekara, Robert Ansell

Wednesday Social: **N/S** 1. S Benefield V Baillie 63.54 2. R Bartrum J Dodds 56.51 3. B Franklin-Browne D Price 52.26 4. B Bull A Sutherland 48.35 **E/W** 1. R Austin N Kennedy 60.47 2. J Kay R Lakeland 57.90 3. A Hodges L Rowland 57.15 4. A Thirtle G MacLachlan 52.75

Friday Social: **N/S** 1. B Franklin-Browne Smithson 57.21 2. O Mackintosh C Veltman 56.73 3. A Thirtle A Bennett 54.65 4. A Foley J Wagstaff 53.37 5. J Groves J Gillespie 53.04 **E/W** 1. S Benefield J Dodds 65.87 2. N Kennedy C Raisin 59.13 3. J Jones J Glenn 54.97 4. H Jarrett L Rowland 52.24 5. S Watson P Loader 51.44

Target shooting results

Target Shooting results for 5 September

Barracks: Aria Hill 98.06, 97.04/ 195.10, Dave Westcott 99.05, 98.05/ 197.10, Raewyne Simpson 96.01, 98.04/ 194.05, Tom Turner 97.03, 97.02/ 194.05, Trevor Rush 92.00, William Hird 96.02, 96.03, 192.05, Patrick McCartie 96.01, 96.03/ 192.04, Lucian Prime 92.03, 92.03/ 184.06, James Prime 93.01, 94.02/ 187.03, Marshall Munro 94.04, 94.01/ 188.05, Glen McCartie 86.00, 91.03/ 177.03, Finlay Rhodes 96.02, Liam Penwarden 94.02, Spencer Sutherland 91.01, Pieta Martin 92.01, Jackson Hay 87.02, Dakoda Philp-Wright 93.03.

Westmere: Steve Horrell 98.06, 96.03/ 194.09, John Goodare 88.01,94.02/ 182.03, Ian Mottram 93.03, 96.05/ 189.08, Shaun Peat 91.02, 90.01/ 181.03, Dann Palmer 95.01, 91.01/ 186.02, Ben Floyd 87.01, 83.01/ 170.02, Emmett Bunn 92.01, 94.02/ 186.03, Ian Hodges 89.01, 94.00/ 183.01, Owen Bunn 91.01, 94.02/ 185.03, Jed Glasgow 89.00, 90.00/ 179.00, Renee Glasgow 89.01, 90.02/ 179.03.

Marton: Tony Bayler 100.10, 98.04/ 198.14, James Jewell 96.05, 98.04/ 194.09, Gary Cuff 97.05, 96.03/ 193.08, Fred de Burgh 95.03, 94.02/ 189.05, Brogan Baldwin 95.03, 91.03/ 186.06, Allan Wright 91.01, 87.01/ 178.02.

Pigeon racing results

The St John's Club Racing Pigeon Adjunct raced from Taumarunui last weekend and, once again, a Shane Guddop pigeon took out first place. High cloud and a gusty south to south-west wind greeted the birds on liberation, and probably contributed to a slower race speed overall.

Shane's bird flew 1193.15m/m or 71.589km/hr. In second place was Dave Lacy 1149.42m/m or 68.965km/hr. Third equal were birds from Heather and Alois Verstraeten, both clocking in at 1145.49m/m or 68.729km/hr. Next was Don Lacy 1142.76m/m or 68.565km/hr; B&A Fairweather 1137.34m/m or 68.240km/hr; Jim Pullins 1134.35m/m or 68.061km/hr and Benedick Galanida 1115.81m/m or 66.916km/hr.

Next week, the birds will be racing from Ōtorohanga – a bit more distance and more of a challenge for them.

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