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September 24, 2026

Rotary Clubs combine to provide 'Shelter Bags' for homeless

BY DOUG DAVIDSON

Shelter bags are designed to provide more comfort for anyone having to sleep outside, in vehicles or in substandard shelters.

They are like a robust sleeping bag complete with head cover and with a padded base layer, (for both comfort and insulation), a full length zip, of generous width and with two security pockets. They are lightweight, portable and waterproof.

The bags have a good backstory as well. Denis McGowan from the Rotary Club of Whanganui advised that "They are manufactured in South Africa and are now made by people previously homeless and incorporating their recommendations." They are being distributed by Rotary Australia.

Following a successful trial sponsored by the Waitara-Bell Block Rotary Club, the Whanganui Rotary clubs were one of the first to make a definite order, going initially for 50 bags. However, Faith City Church and Clifflife Church heard of them and promptly donated $1500, enough for another 10 bags. Denis says, "We are delighted to have these additional supporters."

He adds, "The cost for the shelter bags is around $125 each, depending on transport costs and other subsidies, but are free to the recipients."

"City Mission was chosen," says Denis, "to handle distribution as they had direct contact with people in need, especially men, and the organisational experience to store, monitor the distribution and record the ongoing use and benefits."

Dr Antony Nobbs, Manager of the City Mission, describes the shelter bags as "an act of love to those who have nothing, showing we care for you. They are for those who don't have a home and are more than likely escaping trauma while willing to accept some level of support."

"We wanted to partner with the People's Centre as they have experience finding accommodation for rough sleepers, while our expertise is more in providing food."

Sharon Semple, manager of the Whanganui People's Centre, explained that, "We have developed an understanding of Ministry of Social Development requirements, as well as having good relationships with them and the District Council. We have the statistics and know who is homeless, where they are, their ages, names and backgrounds."

Antony has tried one of the bags and says, "They are amazing. They feel solid, well made with plenty of room. They can be folded up and carried over your shoulder." The bags are uniquely identified to minimise any potential misuse or to sell.

The bags will be given out only to those who meet the requirements. Released prisoners are likely recipients, and this was reinforced when the group went out into the foyer of the City Mission; a person identified himself as a recently released prisoner with no prospects of finding accommodation.

Continued on page 3



Antony, showing what the shelter bag looks like.



Antony (City Mission), Andrew Daddy (The Rotary Club of Whanganui North), Denis (Rotary Club of Whanganui), Graeme Prince (The Rotary Club of Whanganui North) and Sharron Semple from the People's Centre. Andrew and Graeme are holding shelter bags

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Volunteers of the Month - Lesley Horn and Graeme Wilson

Sandra Rickey, manager of Volunteer Whanganui, knows all too well the amazing people in Whanganui who don't hesitate to lend a helping hand. So, Sandra wasn't surprised to receive a nomination for Volunteer of the Month from Hospice for Lesley Horn and Graeme Wilson, a couple who both have the 'helping gene' in spades.

Kisu Hall, Volunteer Coordinator for Hospice, wrote,

I am pleased to nominate Hospice Whanganui's volunteer gardeners, Lesley Horn and Graeme Wilson, for Volunteer of the Month.

Since joining Hospice Whanganui in February 2019, partners Lesley and Graeme have been an invaluable part of our team. They are so thoughtful with new volunteers, warmly welcoming them and "buddying up" to help them settle in. Like many of our dedicated volunteers, their generosity extends to the wider Whanganui community through their support of other non-profits and charities. Both are active volunteers with the Cancer Society, where they support patients with driving and companionship, alongside helping with fundraising events throughout the year.

As a retired couple, Lesley and Graeme mostly volunteer together, enjoying the opportunity to share this experience while still maintaining their independence. Here at Hospice, they are often working separately in different parts of our gardens before going home together with their own stories to share over lunch; it's a great balance.

Our entire gardening team shares an incredible bond, constantly going above and beyond not just for Hospice, but for one another. The collective knowledge and experience they bring to ensuring our gardens are a place of beauty and peace is a gift to all who enjoy them; we are so grateful to all our gardeners. We wholeheartedly recommend Lesley and Graeme for Volunteer of the Month, in appreciation of their continued support, dedication, and kindness.

In response to the letter, the pair were both humbled.

Lesley, a retired nurse, says, "I finished work and decided that there's great need out there in the community."

Together, they started volunteering for the Tawhero School Breakfast Club in 2019, and they now both make home visits to cancer patients.

Graeme, who volunteered for many years for the St John's Ambulance team, taking dialysis patients to Palmerston North for treatment, now volunteers for the Cancer Society, driving patients to treatment once a week. He has completed 90 trips.

While he's making the trips to Palmerston North, Lesley volunteers for a couple of hours at the Gonville Library.

Graeme, whose profession was hydrology, spent working hours out in the great outdoors, was a member of the Tramping Club, and started volunteering for DOC in the 1990s, clearing wilding pines and pink ragwort. Hard work that is now best left to younger people.

Besides giving a helping hand to organisations, the pair make time to maintain the gardens of a neighbour now in her 90s. It means their neighbour can still enjoy the gardens that had brought her and her late husband so much joy.

Graeme walks her dog, too.

Graeme gives a very understated and humble 'why' for all his volunteering: "It gives you something to get you out of bed in the morning.", and they have both enjoyed the friendships made along the way.

We hope Graeme and Lesley enjoy the honour of the Volunteer Month certificates and badges, and the $40 gift vouchers each, kindly donated every month by Tim Watson at Mud Ducks Café.



Lesley Horn and Graeme Wilson.

Final free films for Whanganui Latin America & Spain Film Festival

The final two films in Whanganui's Latin America & Spain Film Festival 2026 are as follows:

Thursday 24 September at 7pm: **A Poet**. This tragicomedy from Columbia runs for 163 minutes. A washed -up poet attempts to mentor a talented working-class teenage girl, only to confront the harsh realities of the literary establishment, her aspirations and his own unmet ambition.

Directed by Simón Mesa Soto, 'a Poet' holds a high critical rating. It premiered at the Cannes Film Festival, where it won the Un Certain Regard Jury Prize.

Saturday 26 September at 7pm: **Corina**. This is a 96 minute comedy drama from Mexico. A young publishing house worker with agoraphobia makes a grave mistake and must embark on a journey outside her comfort zone to save her job and that of her colleague. Rotten Tomatoes describes it as follows: "Blending offbeat, deadpan humour with heartfelt emotion, this uplifting dramedy is a story about leaving one's comfort zone and embracing the unknown."

Both films are at the Davis Theatre of the Museum, and entry is free.



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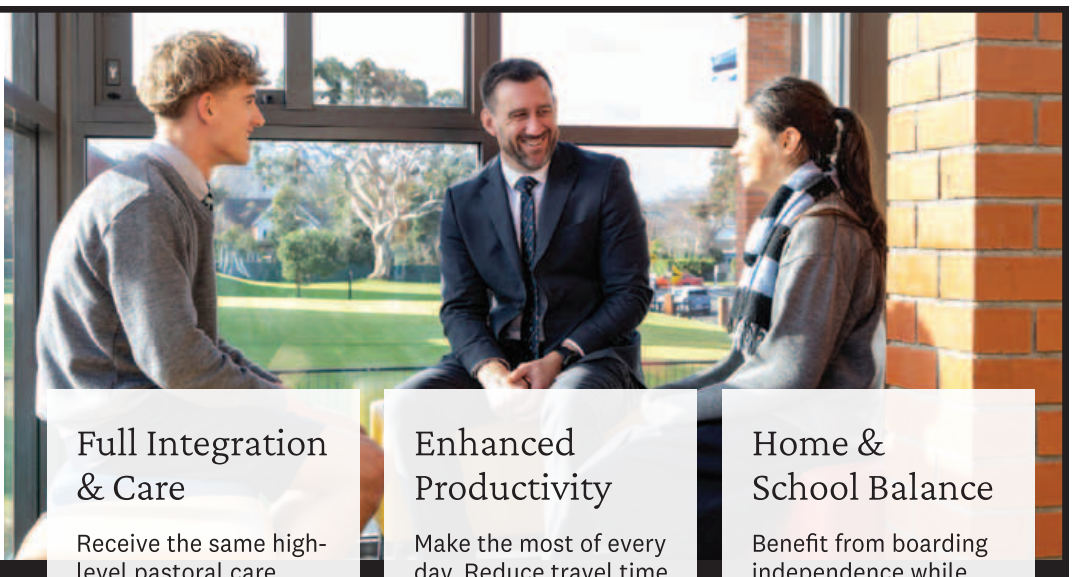

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Inspired by taonga: Museum offers creative jewellery crafting for kids



(L-R) Timara Wallace (Kaiwhakaako Māori/Māori Educator) and Natasha Priddle with some of the contemporary and historical jewellery on display at Whanganui Regional Museum. Both are wearing earrings crafted from polymer clay. *Photo credit: Karen Hughes/Te Puni Tiaki Taonga o Whanganui/ Whanganui Regional Museum*

By Karen Hughes

Whanganui Regional Museum is inviting families to get creative these school holidays with a hands-on programme inspired by the Museum's collection of taonga jewellery.

The session begins with a guided tour of jewellery objects where children will explore the craftsmanship, materials and cultural significance of treasured pieces. They'll see jewellery on display, as well as especially selected items brought out from the Museum's collection.

The tour will include jewellery made from a range of materials, including argillite, whale bone and stone, as well as unusual examples of hair jewellery. Children will also discover jewellery depicted in paintings in the Gottfried Lindauer Gallery, and learn about the local materials, craftsmanship and stories represented in the collection.

They'll then have the chance to put their ideas into practice, designing and making their own jewellery keepsake from polymer clay.

Pou Mātauranga/Team Leader Education Natasha Priddle says polymer clay gives children plenty of scope to experiment. "Polymer clay is a really flexible material, so children can use what they've seen in the Museum to inspire their own designs. We'll be looking at why particular materials were chosen for jewellery and how they connect to people and place, before giving children the opportunity to create something of their own."

Children can choose to have their finished piece cooked onsite and collect it the following day or take it home with instructions for cooking it themselves.

The programme is suitable for children of all ages. Parents and caregivers must attend and are encouraged to get involved and create alongside their children. All materials are provided. Participation is by koha but spaces are limited so must be booked in advance.

The programme also has a special connection to the Museum's own history. Museum founder Samuel Drew had a jeweller and watchmaker business in Whanganui, from around 1870 to 1901.

Whanganui Regional Museum School Holiday Programme – Spring 2026

All sessions 10am-12pm:

Tuesday 29 September
Wednesday 30 September
Thursday 1 October
Friday 2 October
Tuesday 6 October
Wednesday 7 October
Thursday 8 October
Friday 9 October

For full details, visit wrm.org.nz or follow Whanganui Regional Museum on Facebook. Bookings can be made by phone on 06 349 1110 or email info@wrm.org.nz

SuperValue Supermarket in Gonville becomes FreshChoice

The transition of SuperValue to FreshChoice Whanganui in Gonville took place on Monday, 21 September. Tim Cartwright, CEO of FirstChoice Supermarkets, described the transfer as "truly outstanding" and praised owner Priya Patel: "At just 21, Priya is the youngest owner in the chain." Tim thanked Priya's parents for their dedication, welcoming them into FreshChoice owners' fold.

He described the work as "monumental" and "unreal," adding that it was done for the community as the products at Gonville are tailored to suit local needs.

Tim pointed out how other FreshChoice owners were there in support, and thanked all their supply partners.

FreshChoice Whanganui is the 77th FreshChoice Supermarket out of the 82 supermarkets in the chain.

The Kapa Haka group from Rutherford Intermediate school presented a stirring performance appreciated by the significant crowd.

There was also a free sausage sizzle and coffee.

FreshChoice has a modern, fresh look both inside and out. The interior signs stand out, and some descriptors provide a point of difference, such as 'Made locally right here in New Zealand' and 'Celebrating our local heroes.'



Tim Cartwright with Priya Patel

FreshChoice Whanganui will continue to put a strong focus on value, quality, and community engagement. Highlights for local shoppers include the popular Meat Packs deal, where customers can select five meat trays for $25 from a range of over 35 options, alongside fresh produce and tailored product ranges.

The store also remains committed to giving back locally by continuing its support for organisations such as Kai Hub, Te Ora Hou, local schools, sports clubs, and community fundraisers.

Rotary Clubs combine to provide 'Shelter Bags' to City Mission

Continued from page 1

So far, the City Mission has given out 11 shelter bags, and the response has been very positive.

The recipients will also get socks, a beanie, a snack pack and hygiene essentials provided by the Rapid Relief Team, the charitable arm of the Plymouth Brethren.

The project will be reviewed after 12 months.

Antony praised the Rotary Clubs, saying, "This would not have happened without you guys."

Denis summed up the appeal of the shelter bags as follows: "They are not considered to be a solution to homelessness but a very useful short-term comfort to those rough sleeping." He encourages other organisations who are aware of a need for the shelter bags to contact the City Mission.

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Redress, a response to need

It always shocks volunteers in the Anglican Social Services opportunity shop when a Whanganui person comes in and says, " I didn't know you were here", but maybe it shouldn't be a surprise. In fact, the shop has moved so many times over its existence that it was once named "Genesis 7", because that was its seventh location. One of the longest-serving volunteers used to help in the shop when it was in Maria Mall, behind Deka, taking her baby along. Those buildings are long gone, and the baby is now 27: she, too, has volunteered at Redress during holidays from school and university.

The shop has been at its present location in Ridgway Street for several years now, since taking the Post Office Bookshop's site when that closed, and before that it was nearer the Avenue in a very cramped space. Currently there are three rooms to browse: one displays ladies' fashion in size 16 and over, there's the main shop with other sizes, designer and vintage racks, and a bargain room -$3 or less- for stock that's been on the racks too long or isn't quite so good. Men are catered for, with both smart and casual wear, and all garments show the original aim of Redress, to be a more up-market op-shop.

Although under the umbrella of the Anglican church, Redress has a committee that can decide where proceeds should go. Usually they donate to local causes such as Foodbank; one year they provided money for a new stove at St Luke's in Castlecliff to enable cooking classes to happen. They have also helped fund a trained youth worker to be a student support presence in some local schools, giving young people a non-judgmental person to talk to. All valuable causes in today's hard times.

The shop welcomes donations of clean clothing in good condition, any time during opening hours: Tuesday-Friday 10.30am-3.30pm, and while you're there dropping off your surplus garments, have a look at the well-priced items available. To clear winter wear, there will be a half price sale for the whole of October, and remember the slogan Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Redress!

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Whanganui Blue Light PCT Challenge for Intermediate students

Whanganui Blue Light ran another exciting PCT (Physical Competency Test) Challenge for Year 7 and 8 students, with this year's event taking place at Springvale Stadium, Whanganui, on Tuesday, 15 September.

A total of 20 schools entered this year 's challenge, with each school putting forward a composite team of two boys and two girls. The teams competed against one another for the fastest overall time and the honour of taking home the official PCT Challenge trophy for 2026.

The glass trophy has been proudly contested since the event began in 2014. It was donated by local artist Emma Camden, and has become a highly sought-after prize among Whanganui schools.

Apart from one year when the event could not be held due to COVID-19, the PCT Challenge has been an annual fixture since 2014.

Every student who participated had the opportunity to complete the PCT course, with the fastest two boys and two girls selected to represent Whanganui schools at the National PCT Fear Factor Challenge in Auckland on 7–8 November.

This gives individual students the chance to test themselves against some of the fastest Year 7 and 8 intermediate-aged competitors in the country.



Students doing the 'Physical Competency Test' challenge

Results

Winning School: Waverley School

Individuals

Boys. 1st – Quentin Smith from Waverley in 1.49.90, 2nd - Caius Atkinson from Kai Iwi in 1.52.25 and 3rd Matthew Holmes, Rutherford Intermediate in 1.59.33.

Girls. 1st Huia Elms from St Annes in 2.15.58, 2nd – Skylahray from Waverley in 2.16.02 and 3rd – Bailey Amer from Upokongaro in 2.26.14

What is the PCT?

PCT stands for Police Competency Test. The course is an obstacle-based fitness test designed to assess the physical fitness and agility required of police officers.

Police recruits complete the PCT as part of their training, and serving police officers undertake the test to ensure they continue to meet the required physical standards.

For Whanganui's Year 7 and 8 students, the Blue Light PCT Challenge provides a unique opportunity to experience a version of that challenge in a supportive and competitive environment.

The course tests much more than speed. Students need fitness, strength, agility, determination and grit while competing alongside their teammates and supporting one another.

Recent RCP winner

Congratulations to Karen Moase, winner of RCP's Spring Quiz with a $200 cash prize. Thanks to everyone who entered, and a big thanks to the local businesses that supported the quiz: Aramoho Mags and Lotto, Coccinella, CME Services Ltd, Driving Miss Daisy, Springvale & Morning Café and Wanganui Farm Supplies.



Regional award for local real estate agent

I'm incredibly proud to have been named Property Brokers Rookie of the Year for the Lower North Island. It is a great honour, but for me, real estate has always been about much more than awards. It's about people.

I was born and raised in Whanganui, and I'm proud to call this community home. I've spent more than 30 years supporting people through education and leadership, and moving into real estate has given me another opportunity to do what I've always enjoyed most: helping people build their futures.

Buying or selling a home is a big deal. Sometimes it's exciting, sometimes it's emotional, and often it's both. I enjoy being there to guide people through the process, listen to what matters to them, and hopefully make the journey a little easier along the way. Every person and every property has a different story, and being trusted to play a part in that is something I don't take for granted.

I've always been goal-oriented and believe in effective planning, working hard, and doing what you say you'll do. But just as importantly, I believe in treating people well, being a strong communicator and having a bit of fun along the way.

Whanganui has given me a lot over the years, so giving back is important to me. I'm a strong supporter of our local charities, sports clubs and businesses, and the many people who put their time and energy into making our community a great place to live.



Adrian Lyne

I'm very grateful for this recognition, but even more grateful to the people who have trusted, recommended, and supported me along the way.

I'm proud to be part of this community and look forward to helping many more Whanganui locals with whatever comes next.

-Adrian Lyne

Electoral Commission in Whanganui with mobile hubs to encourage enrolments

Representatives of the Electoral Commission are in Whanganui at various sites around town such as Pak 'N Save, Four Squares, Gonville Shopping Centre and at the Warehouse, encouraging people to enrol and to check their enrolment details.

Supervisor Belle Tuimaseve-Fox says, "The response has been amazing." On the first day (Monday 21 September), they talked with over 200 people over four hours. About half of them took up the offer to check their details, with many of them able to update them. If you have the wrong address, communications from the Commission will not be received, and you won't get your easy vote card, which makes voting a quick exercise.

Belle adds, "There is clearly a lot of interest in this year's election with many passionate people. Some have asked us, 'who should we vote for?', but of course we remain totally neutral."



Belle and her colleague Toumairangi Fowler at their stand outside the Warehouse.

A few misconceptions have been cleared up, such as the need for photo ID (eg driver' licence or a passport) as is required if you apply on-line. However, applying at one of their hubs, all you need is a signature and being able to give your details. This is important as many people do not have photo ID or are computer illiterate or do not have access to the internet.

There is also confusion about whether there is both postal and in-person voting. Belle explains that "Postal voting can be done only for local body elections. You have to visit a polling site to vote in-person for the General Election. Details of these sites will be published later.

The Post pointed out on Monday 21 September that 90.2% of people are on the electoral roll. The Commission hopes to at least match the 2023 figure of 94.7%. Of course, not everyone will vote, but the more the better.

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What if care still felt like home?

Let's *rethink* ageing

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The hardest part of moving into care isn't packing

A favourite chair. Photographs on the wall. The dog waiting by the door. Home is made up of things we can see and things we cannot: familiar faces, private rituals, the freedom to decide who comes in and how we spend our time.

When someone needs more care than can be safely provided at home, leaving home behind can be one of the hardest parts of the decision. For a son, daughter or partner, there is relief in knowing help will be there around the clock for their loved one, alongside a difficult question: **will the person they love *still feel at home*?**

That question deserves more than a reassuring brochure. University of Otago researcher Dr M. Panthi interviewed older New Zealanders living in residential care and found that unfamiliar surroundings, set routines and fewer visits could make the early weeks lonely. Some residents felt the decision to move had been made for them. Others gradually came to regard their new surroundings as "like home", helped by relationships with staff and family and by activities that meant something to them.

The findings point to a distinction that matters. A room can be comfortable and well-furnished yet still feel like somebody else's place if every decision is made elsewhere. Moving from a family house to a smaller single room is a dramatic physical change. Losing a sense of ownership over your days, your relationships or your surroundings is something deeper.

Families feel that uncertainty too. They may worry whether Mum's stories and preferences will be known, whether Dad will have someone to talk to, or whether visits will feel welcome. Handing over responsibility for care does not mean wanting to hand over a loved one's place in the family.

At Enliven Central, our starting point is simple: it is the *resident's home*. Our team are *guests* in *their* home. That means making room for the life someone brings with them: photographs, treasured possessions, the chair they have always sat in. Where suitable and approved, that may include a much-loved pet. These things carry memories, habits and relationships into an unfamiliar place.

But feeling at home takes more than filling a room with familiar things. It means being able to welcome family and friends in your place, find companionship and have a say in what happens beyond your own door. Enliven Central's approach is guided by the Eden Alternative, a philosophy that addresses key issues like loneliness, helplessness and boredom by making connection and meaningful participation part of everyday life.

For families, that welcome matters too. One spouse describes looking for "a homely place, something that suited our lifestyle" and finding that the family quickly got to know the staff. Hamish, whose wife Rosalie lives at an Enliven Central Home, says the friendliness of the team has made visits feel "like another home for me too, in a way".

Those experiences speak to something families hope for: that their relationship with the person moving into care will still have a place there. So does the resident's relationship with the people providing the care and support.

That's what happens at Enliven Central when a new Home Manager is being recruited. Our Residents take part in the interviews. They sit across from the candidates, ask questions and help assess who is right to lead the place where they live.

Huntleigh Home resident Valerie Smith relishes that opportunity. She asks candidates whether they have worked in an environment where residents have "maximum choice and control over decisions about their daily lives and about how the Home is run".

It is a demanding question. A Home Manager will make decisions that shape the atmosphere of the home and how concerns are heard. Valerie gets to look a prospective manager in the eye and ask how they will treat residents when those decisions arise. Her experience of living there counts in choosing who will lead it.

Anna Pardillo, Home Manager at Huntleigh Home and Village, puts the responsibility in human terms. Alongside physical care, she says, residents have emotional and social needs: "to belong, to be in the community, to be in a family."

Care and belonging belong together. A family should be able to feel confident that their loved one is supported, and the person moving in should be able to recognise their own life in the place around them. That takes more than furniture and friendly words. It takes listening, making space for whānau and trusting residents with a real say in the home they share.

A move into care can change an address. In our view, it should not erase a person's history, relationships or place in the decisions that shape their days. At Enliven Central, that is what we mean when we say it is 'their home' and serving residents is our privilege.

Because getting older doesn't mean living less.

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Because getting older doesn't mean living less

enlivencentral.org.nz/rethink-ageing

Can Whanganui give two hours for breast cancer this October?

Could Whanganui locals spare two hours to help make a difference for New Zealanders affected by breast cancer?

Breast Cancer Foundation NZ's Pink Ribbon Street Appeal returns on Friday 16 and Saturday 17 October. More volunteers are needed in Whanganui to collect donations during a two-hour shift at a local supermarket, shopping centre or community location.

The Pink Ribbon Street Appeal is the Foundation's longest-running fundraiser, raising vital funds in support of the 60 women diagnosed with breast cancer in the Whanganui area every year – and more than 3,700 people around the country.

But the appeal couldn't happen without the thousands of volunteers who generously give their time each year.

Breast Cancer Foundation NZ's chief executive Vanessa Sorenson says the impact of the Pink Ribbon Street Appeal reaches far beyond the collection sites: "A pink bucket may look like a small thing, but the generosity behind it helps someone get trusted advice when breast cancer turns their life upside down. It helps communities learn about early detection and enables researchers to pursue better ways to diagnose and treat the disease.

"As an independent charity, we receive no government funding for our vital work. We need people across Whanganui to help fill the collection sites – and if you can spare two hours, we would love to have you with us."



Signing up to collect for the Pink Ribbon Street Appeal is easy – simply choose a location and time that suits, then show up for your shift. Everything volunteers need is provided at the collection site, and first-time volunteers will receive information and support before their shift.

The money raised through the appeal helps to empower communities with education, fund groundbreaking research and innovation, provide compassionate patient support, and advocate for change so more New Zealanders with breast cancer can live and live well.

Sign up to collect for the Pink Ribbon Street Appeal at pinkribbonvolunteer.org.nz. Registrations close at 12pm on 15 October.



Successful Stone Soup gathering despite windy weather



Idea Services kapa haka rōpū, Te Timatanga O Whanganui performing

A Stone Soup Community Gathering at Lorenzdale Park in Gonville on Saturday 19 September to celebrate the cultures of our community was a great success despite the windy, overcast weather. It ran from 11am through to 2.30pm.

Stone Soup received grants from Kāinga Ora, "who have been supporting us since the beginning," Kathy from Stone Soup said, and also from the Whanganui District Council. Each gave $1000, and wanted it to support different community groups to enable them to share their food with the general community.

The different community groups who shared their delicious kai and cultures included Samoan, Fijian, Cook Island, Egyptian, Māori and Indian communities. Kathy said, "The Egyptians had worked the night shift, but were there early preparing their food. All the groups worked hard to make their food fresh."

It was also an opportunity for Idea Services to be involved and their kapa haka rōpū, Te Timatanga O Whanganui to perform and to share their culture, connection and community spirit.

There were plenty of services available, including the Health Bus, Cancer Society, Gonville Health, WISE (Healthy Homes services), Gonville Library, Whānau Manaaki kindergartens, HIPPY (free home-based early education), Kāinga Ora (public housing) and Plunket. There were also opportunities to enrol for the election.

It was a chance to have a kōrero (talk), to learn about different cultures, strengthen understanding of whakapapa (ancestry), meet neighbours and help build a community where everyone feels welcome, safe, connected and able to participate.

Also performing was the Teine Samoa o Whanganui. Kathy said Stone Soup was likely to organise a similar community gathering next year.

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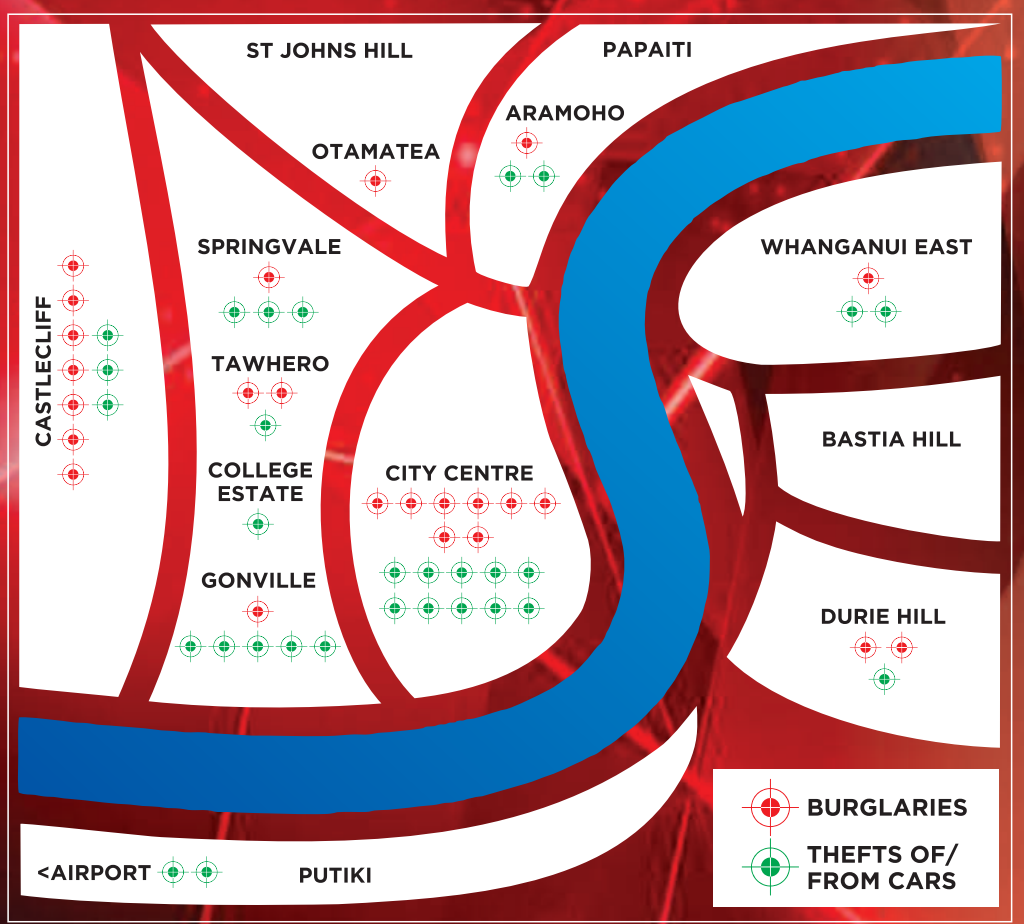

Burglaries:

ARAMOHO	Patterson Street
CASTLECLIFF	Wharf Street
CASTLECLIFF	Kowhai Street
CASTLECLIFF	Karewa Street
CASTLECLIFF	Puriri Street
CASTLECLIFF	Titoki Street
CASTLECLIFF	Hinau Street
CASTLECLIFF	Laird Street
CITY	Campbell Street
CITY	Guyton Street
CITY	Ingestre Street
CITY	Wicksteed Street
CITY	Ingestre Street
CITY	Churton Street
CITY	London Street
CITY	Peat Street
DURIE HILL	Maxwell Avenue
DURIE HILL	Fife Street
GONVILLE	Koromiko Road
OTAMATEA	Great North Road
SPRINGVALE	Parsons Street
TAWHERO	Carlton Street
TAWHERO	Totara Street
WHANGANUI EAST	Anzac Parade

Vehicle Crimes:

ARAMOHO	Arran Place
ARAMOHO	Somme Parade
CASTLECLIFF	Thatcher Street
CASTLECLIFF	Matai Street
CASTLECLIFF	Seafront Road
CITY	Watt Street
CITY	Pukenamu Drive
CITY	Cameron Terrace
CITY	Guyton Street
CITY	Glasgow Street
CITY	Guyton Street
CITY	Pukenamu Drive
CITY	Drews Avenue
CITY	Victoria Avenue
CITY	Campbell Street
COLLEGE ESTATE	Liverpool Street
DURIE HILL	Taylor Street
GONVILLE	Rees Street
GONVILLE	Koromiko Road
GONVILLE	Maire Street
GONVILLE	Alma Road
GONVILLE	Maire Street
SPRINGVALE	London Street
SPRINGVALE	London Street
SPRINGVALE	London Street
TAWHERO	Fitzherbert Avenue
WHANGANUI AIRPORT	Airport Road
WHANGANUI AIRPORT	South Beach
WHANGANUI EAST	Boydfield Street
WHANGANUI EAST	Duncan Street

DATA FROM SEPTEMBER 7-20 ALL CONTENT SUPPLIED BY NEW ZEALAND POLICE

John Bertrand Collectables Buying in Whanganui and Marton Next Week

Once again, the gold and collectables buyers from Wellington company John Bertrand Collectables are visiting Whanganui and Marton next week. Mr Tony Grant from the company says, "If you are downsizing or wanting to dispose of things because they no longer serve any purpose to you or your family bring them in". "Next week will be a great opportunity to have any items you want to sell assessed by our buyers" said Mr Grant. Particularly wanted are Gold and Silver (in any of its forms) and Collectables such as Coins, Banknotes, War Medals, Old Wind-up Watches and other interesting Small Collectables.

"We are keen buyers, especially of the items in the list below" said Mr Grant. "Nothing is too small for our consideration. We are just as happy buying 1 item as we are buying 1,000 items" he said. The buyers will be in Whanganui and Marton next week. (see details below). As Tony Grant points out "If you are in doubt about any items you may wish to sell, bring them along for an instant appraisal."



Mr Anthony (Tony) W. Grant

Fellow of the Royal Numismatic Society of New Zealand Incorporated

Director and Buyer
John Bertrand (Collectables) Ltd

Author of the John Bertrand NZ Coin & Banknote Catalogue

Gold & Silver At Very High Prices



Over the last couple of years, we have seen a sharp increase in the price of precious metals. The gold price in New Zealand is still at historically high levels. So, gather up all your unwanted items and make an appointment to see the buyers. Tony Grant says "We can buy gold items in all forms, including Jewellery (Rings, Chains, Brooches etc.), Coins (Sovereigns and the like), Alluvial (River Gold), virtually anything, even Gold Teeth! We also need all Sterling Silver including Cups, Tea Services, Cutlery and Old Coins" he said.

Interesting Small Collectables Wanted

The buyers from John Bertrand (Collectables) Ltd, visiting Whanganui and Marton next week, are happy to look at any interesting items, for example vintage pocket and wristwatches such as Rolex, Men's Omega, Breitling and gold watches etc. Also wanted, pre 1950's picture postcards, Maori and Pacific artefacts, old fountain pens and other small antique or historical items.

"If you have something unusual which you would like to sell, please bring it into one of our venues, we would like the chance to at least have a look at it" said Tony Grant, buyer for the Company. "We will consider anything which may be of interest to a collector" he said.

Some Big Dollars in Early Banknotes

Early New Zealand Banknotes dated before 1932 are currently fetching big money! This is according to Mr Tony Grant, author of the *John Bertrand New Zealand Coin & Banknote Catalogue*. Mr Grant is in Whanganui and Marton next week on a buying trip for John Bertrand (Collectables) Ltd and would be very keen to see any of these issues. "We will pay at least $300 for any undamaged Ten Shilling or One Pound banknote from a New Zealand trading bank dated 1932 or before.

Denominations of five pounds and higher would be worth from $700. "Any banknote dated prior to 1900 would be worth at least $1000" said Mr Grant.

Also purchased are any Reserve Bank of New Zealand pre-decimal issues, especially 50 Pound notes. All overseas banknotes are also wanted, especially early Pacific Island issues.

Collectors Need War Medals

Currently, throughout NZ and the world there is a big demand by collectors for war medals. These cover all wars right through from the New Zealand Land Wars and the Boer War, to the First and Second World Wars and the later Korea and Vietnam conflicts. New Zealand Servicemen and Women first served overseas in the Boer War in South Africa around 1900 and the war medals awarded for this service are needed by the buyers, as are any other Medals from early New Zealand and the New Zealand Wars.

General service medals from both the First and Second World Wars will also be purchased, but as can be imagined these were awarded in fairly large numbers. "If a group of medals has any special award for bravery such as the Military Medal, Military or Flying Cross or other medals for Distinguished Conduct or Meritorious Service, these can add great value to a group" stated Mr Tony Grant, buyer for John Bertrand (Collectables) Ltd. "Many families have old medals, some dating back to early Imperial days, that they are not sure what to do with. These are better off in the hands of collectors who will look after them. We will be happy to look at any war medals whatsoever, just bring them in to venues" he said.

Old Coins Can Toss Up a Rarity

Do you have a bunch of old coins sitting around in your drawers and cupboards? You just never know what rarities may be lurking there. The advice from Tony Grant from John Bertrand (Collectables) Limited is to "bring them in and let us have a look". "No need to sort anything out just bring them in 'as is' and please don't clean them! We can go through coin accumulations and collections fairly quickly" he said. The buyers are particularly keen to purchase pre-1946 New Zealand Silver Coins and World Silver Coins. "In any event we will buy All Coins," said Mr Grant.

JOHN BERTRAND (COLLECTABLES) ARE BUYING NOW!!

OLD GOLD

- Unwanted Jewellery or Broken Rings
- Gold Chains
- Gold Watch Cases
- Alluvial (River) Gold
- Dental Gold
- Gold Coins
- Gold Racing & Trophy Cups



COINS



- All Gold & Silver Coins
- Gold Sovereigns
- Gold Half Sovereigns
- NZ Silver Coins 1946 & Before
- Also wanted NZ & World Coins after 1946
- Australian Silver Coins to 1963
- English Silver Coins to 1946
- NZ 1935 "Waitangi Crown"
- USA Coins up to 1964
- Old Collections & Accumulations of World Coins
- Modern Collector's Coins & Sets
- NZ Reserve Bank Sets

No Pennies or Halfpennies Please



BANKNOTES

- NZ & Australian "Trading Bank" Notes pre 1932 (e.g. Bank of New South Wales, Bank of NZ etc)
- Reserve Bank of NZ Pre-Decimal Notes
- Any £20, £50 or £100 Notes
- Hong Kong & Malayan Banknotes
- Australian Pre Decimal Notes
- Australian "Star" Notes
- Early Fijian and Samoan Banknotes
- NZ Traders Promissary Notes (1840s)
- NZ Government Debentures
- NZ Banknotes overprinted for use in Fiji, Cook Islands etc
- Postal Notes
- All other World Banknotes



GOLD & SILVER

- Racing Cups
- A&P Show Cups
- Sports Cups
- Presentation Keys & Trowels
- Show Pieces
- Sterling Silver Tea Sets
- Sterling Silver Cutlery
- Scrap Gold & Silver

No EPNS or Silver Plated items Please

WRIST & POCKET WATCHES

- Gold & Silver Pocket Watches
- Any Rolex Watches
- Omega Gents Watches
- Any Breitling, Jaegar Le Coultre, Vacheron & Constantin, Patek Philippe, or IWC Watches
- Moon Phase Watches
- Chiming or Alarm Watches (Pocket or Wrist)
- Military Watches
- Divers Watches
- All other pre 1950s wind up watches (parts value only)

No Quartz or Battery Operated Watches Please



TOKENS

- NZ & Australian "Tradesmen's" Tokens
- NZ Transportation Tokens
- Railway Passes
- Tram Tokens (not Dunedin Tramways)
- Presbyterian Church Communion Tokens
- Bread Tokens
- Theatre, Cafe, Discount Tokens etc
- Any other tokens relating to early New Zealand

COLLECTABLES

- Albums & Accumulations of Pre 1920s Postcards (used or unused)
- Old Fountain Pens
- Small Chinese & Japanese Antiques
- Maori & Pacific Artefacts







No item too small for our consideration



WAR MEDALS ETC

- The New Zealand Wars & Boer War Medals
- 1st World War Medals
- 2nd World War Medals, Stars etc
- Orders and Decorations
- Korea & Vietnam Medals
- Antarctic or other Polar Medals
- Fire Brigade Medals
- Lodge Medals
- Shooting Medals
- Military Badges and all other Military Medals
- Gold returning Fob Medals or "Tokens of Honour" from residents of small town New Zealand

HISTORICAL MEDALS

- A&P Show - Gold, Silver & Bronze Medals
- Commemorative Medals & Medalets
- Prize Medals (Gold & Silver)
- Sports Medals (Gold & Silver)
- Life Saving Medals
- Shipwreck Medals
- Coronation Medals
- etc, etc, etc



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WHANGANUI	Thurs 1 Oct	Central Baptist Church, Wharenui Room, 285 Wicksteed Street	9 am to 10.30 am

ALSO BUYING IN

MARTON	Wed 30 Sept	St John Ambulance Rooms, Corner Lower Beaven Street & Wellington Road	11.30 am to 12.30 pm



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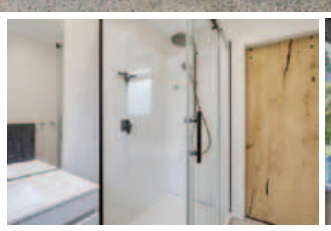

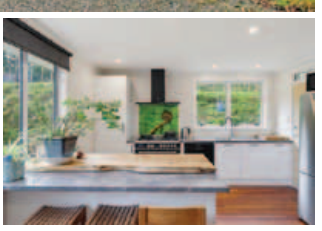

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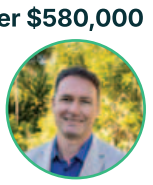


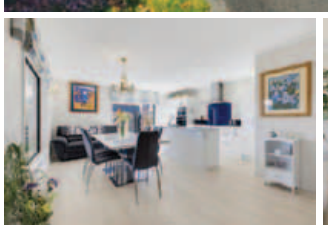
2 | 1 | 4 | 125m² | 1.0003ha

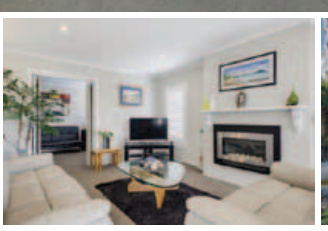
Matt Robertson 021 886 815

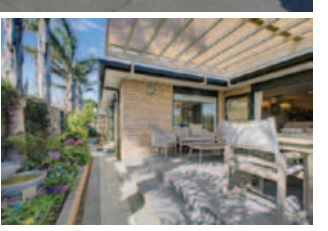
Open to view: By appointment

32 Purnell Street, College Estate









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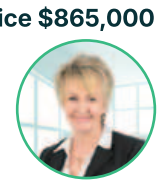

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100 years since river legend Mother Aubert died



Mother Aubert is forever linked with Hiruhārama/Jerusalem.

By Dave Scoullar

October 1 marks 100 years since the death of Suzanne Aubert, better known as Mother Aubert, a woman forever linked with Hiruhārama/Jerusalem and the Whanganui River.

Leaving her native France as a young woman, she arrived in New Zealand in 1860. After working in Auckland and Hawke's Bay, she went to Hiruhārama/Jerusalem in 1883 to revive the Catholic mission by invitation of Māori from the Whanganui River area.

There the Catholic congregation – the Daughters of Our Lady of Compassion – was born. She said, "Never forget that we were first instituted for the Māori, that we began in the bush, and that we are concentrated to their service by our vows. They have the first claim on our love, on our care. A Māori village was the cradle of our institute."

In 1892, Archbishop Redwood appointed her as Mother Superior of the newly established Daughters of Our Lady of Compassion. During a tour to raise money to replace the burnt-down St Joseph's Church at Hiruhārama/Jerusalem, she became acutely aware of the challenges faced by poor and unmarried mothers and their babies.

She took 74 babies and children into their care, but Hiruhārama/Jerusalem was too isolated from medical services. So in 1899, she moved to Wellington to work with the suffering and destitute there, planning a much-needed home, setting up a soup kitchen that still operates today and a crèche for children of working parents. After she died, aged 91, her funeral in Wellington was reported to be the largest accorded to a woman in this country.

New Zealand's Catholic Bishops will celebrate a special commemoration Mass on Sunday, October 4, reflecting Mother Aubert's deep commitment to working among Māori. Meanwhile, the process for her canonisation as a saint is currently before the authorities in Rome.

Niwa Barlow scheduled for next professional boxing fight

Whanganui-based Niwa Barlow is scheduled in next professional boxing fight, taking on 18-year-old Auckland Kickboxer Gabriel Tuteru on October 3rd at Eventfinda Stadium in Auckland.

25-year-old Niwa Barlow made his professional boxing debut back in June 2025 on the first BX-9 show at Due Drop Events Centre in South Auckland. Barlow won his debut fight by first round stoppage against Tumanako Phillips.

Since then, he has built his amateur boxing career, reaching the semifinals in the New Zealand national amateur championships, and winning the North Island Golden Gloves Championships.

He has also shown an impressive display in a new form of combat sport called Hyper Fight, which is striking in MMA gloves, against the infamous Dhcamad Armstrong, on the last BX-9 show. Barlow won the fight against Armstrong by unanimous decision.

Barlow is now considered one of New Zealand's top heavyweight prospects, especially with his skills, his power and toughness.



Niwa Barlow

He will be taking on Gabriel Tuteru from Auckland who is from the legendary Tuteru family, fighting out of South Auckland Leegar Thaiboxing Gym.

This year has been a busy year for Tuteru as he has won multiple titles in kickboxing including WKBF Heavyweight title and ISKA NZ PRO Super Heavyweight Title.

Barlow's gym Uenuku Natives has taken to social media when the fight was announced that they are not going to take this fight lightly. "We don't underestimate anyone from Salt, we've lost to two fighters from Salt gym. Put some respect on Gabriel's name."

Niwa Barlow vs Gabriel Tuteru will happen on October 3rd at Eventfinda Stadium in Auckland. Tickets will be on sale at Eventfinda and will be streamed on PPV with CSN.WATCH

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Shared pathway next step for North Mole restoration

Work on the North Mole restoration was expected to begin in August. However, the programme has been adjusted following the discovery of native skinks within the project area.

The shared pathway alongside the awa will now be the first major piece of construction, with work expected to begin by November, subject to Department of Conservation approvals.

Once complete, it will add another section to the Mountains to Sea shared pathway, creating a better connection through the North Mole area for people walking and cycling. Based on the current programme, it is expected to be ready for summer.

Whanganui Mayor and chair of Ngā Ara Tūhono Charitable Trust (Mountain to Sea Cycleway) Andrew Tripe says it is positive to see the project continuing to move forward.

"The shared pathway will be a great addition and another important link in the Mountains to Sea shared pathway."

Native skinks classified as Threatened – Nationally Critical have previously been sighted in the wider North Mole area. A recent habitat assessment also found native northern grass skinks within vegetated areas of the project site.

Further surveys are needed to identify which species are present and where they are living, and to plan for their safe relocation if required.

Project Hapū Advisor Seletar Taputoro says the discovery reinforces the environmental kaupapa behind the restoration.

"This is a place where people, the awa, the moana and the natural environment come together. Finding native skinks here is another reminder of why caring for those connections is such an important part of this project."

Potential skink habitat was identified across parts of the dune environment, but none was identified within the proposed shared pathway works area, which largely follows an existing gravel path.

The new car park is expected to follow towards the end of summer, with dune construction and planting planned for autumn and winter next year.

Progress is also being made on the three pou that will eventually stand at the North Mole, with carving underway by kaiwhakairo from Ngā Pūna Waihanga ki Te Ao Hou.

The Morgan Street access track will also be replaced as part of future works. In the meantime, sand will continue to be cleared and its condition monitored, while the existing North Mole car park remains open and will be maintained as needed.

Further details about the shared pathway construction, including confirmed timing and any impacts on access, will be shared once the programme and necessary approvals are in place.

Keep up to date at whanganui.govt.nz/north-mole.



Native Northern Skinks were found at the North Mole

Sophie Toyne from Whanganui High School wins Smokefree Best Vocals Award

Representing the Whanganui region, country pop artist Sophie Toyne from Whanganui High School took out the Smokefree Best Vocals Award, Smokefreerockquest 2026, winning herself a $500 cash prize.

"I am so grateful to have won the Best Vocal Award in Smokefreerockquest 2026! I had the best night and have become best friends with all the sisters and brothers I never knew I had!

Artist and judge, Lisa Tomlins, was mind-blown by Sophie's technical ability; "Sophie Toyne is just on point – her pitch is unwavering. She has great support, and she uses a lot of different techniques to get the emotive quality out."

Founded by Glenn Common and Pete Rainey in 1988, Smokefreerockquest has become an integral part of Aotearoa's music landscape, supporting the early careers of many successful artists including Marlon Williams, Six60, Fazerdaze, Aldous Harding, Troy Kingi, Drax Project, Brooke Fraser, Kimbra, Bic Runga and many more.

Nearly four decades on, the kaupapa continues to give young people across the motu the opportunity to create, perform and develop their own original music in a professional environment.

In 2026, more than 1,100 acts and over 3,700 student performers took part across 22 regions and 37 live events, from the Far North to Southland.

Beyond the awards, every finalist gained valuable experience, participating in a diverse range of workshops across the two days, focused on songwriting, recording, media training, gig organisation and more.

Additionally, all 2026 National Finalists receive the opportunity to record a song in a professional recording studio, thanks to the Ministry of Education.

Smokefreerockquest 2026 is presented by the Wright Family Foundation and powered by the Rockshop. Proudly supported by Rockquest Promotions, Health NZ, Wright Family Foundation, Ministry of Education, Massey University, Freemasons Foundation, and NZ on Air.



Sophie Toyne

ADD/ADHD New Zealand

AWARENESS MONTH
1-31 October 2026

ADHD myths busted

ADHD (Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder) is a neurodevelopmental disorder characterised by persistent inattention, hyperactivity, and impulsivity that can interfere with daily life.

ADHD Awareness Month 2026 is a month-long initiative dedicated to increasing awareness and understanding of ADHD. It provides a platform for individuals, healthcare providers, educators, and advocates to share information, resources, and personal experiences related to ADHD.

There are many myths about ADHD. Here are some of them with the facts.

Myth 1: People with ADHD can't concentrate

FACT: Individuals with ADHD can concentrate when they are interested in or intrigued by what they are doing.

MYTH 2: ADHD is overdiagnosed

FACT: The rates with which ADHD is diagnosed vary so much primarily due to diagnostic criteria and measurement methods used.

MYTH 3: Only boys have ADHD

FACT: Boys are diagnosed two to three times as often as girls, but about 4.2% of girls have received a diagnosis of ADHD at some point in their life.

ADHD 4: is caused by bad parenting

FACT: Brain-imaging studies show that differences in brain structure and wiring cause problems with attention, impulse control and motivation.

MYTH 5: ADHD is just an excuse for laziness

FACT: ADHD is really a problem with the chemical dynamics of the brain and it's not under voluntary control.

MYTH 6: All children grow out of ADHD

FACT: Significant symptoms and impairments persist in 50-86% of people with ADHD.

MYTH 7: Everyone has a little ADHD

FACT: Everyone does not have a physical difference in their brain.

MYTH 8: Children with ADHD just need more discipline.

FACT: Discipline and relationship problems are the consequences of ADHD behaviour problems in the children, not the cause.

Authorised by Miriam Ross, greens.org.nz

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Whanganui Unique Children's Support Group

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or email: **petergs@infogen.net.nz**
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‘Beneath the Smoke’ - story of Waverley’s Fire Brigade

Laraine Sole has written another book – this time on The Story of Waverley’s Early Fires and Volunteer Fire Brigades – ‘Beneath the Smoke.’ She wrote a previous book on ‘Black Gold’ on the Waipipi Ironsands as a fundraiser for the Waverley Fire Brigade, and her latest book is also a fundraiser for them.

The idea came from friend Kylie James, who not only runs the café – Hind Quarters – but is also the Chief Fire Officer. She was one of the first women in Taranaki to hold this position, and is currently the only female CFO in Taranaki.

Kylie found an old fire station bell – Laraine estimates it to be at least 100 years old – at the back of a shed in the fire station premises. Thanks to the Toi Foundation they had it mounted on a plinth outside the station. This led Kylie to asking whether there was a possibility of a book about the service as a fundraiser.

The Brigade has become much busier this year after being accepted as a first responder. This means that the brigade is called out to most medical issues in the area, making the response much quicker than relying on St John services coming from Whanganui or further north.

As Kylie says, “Thanks to our new role we have saved lives and delivered a baby.”

The Brigade has 10 volunteers, including Kylie, and six of them have already been trained as First Responders, a certificate they need to resit every six months. St John covers the cost of equipment and training, but the brigade had to fundraise to purchase and upkeep a ute.

Laraine advises that all profits from the sale of the book will go to support Waverley to upkeep the ute. The Fire Brigade is paying for the printing, which is being done by H&A. In the future, Kylie would love to be able to purchase a purpose-built ute.

The writing of the book (162 pages complete with pictures) was not easy. Laraine explains – “There were no minute books kept, but then we found two of them in private possession. I had to do a lot of background reading and then interviewed people. I weaved the history of fires, brigades and fire stations together, covering the period of the 1890s through to when the new station was opened in 1987.

Kylie comments, “We have the same problems as we had then – water, volunteers and equipment.” This is actually the 5th Fire Brigade. They would shut down, then reopen.

Laraine adds, “I have some personal investment in the fire brigade. Every time I hear the siren go off in the middle of the night, I recognise how lucky we are to have them.”

The volunteers train every Tuesday night from 7 to 9pm, and Kylie says, “Newcomers are very welcome. Out of the 10 of us, five are women.”



Laraine and Kylie with the book cover after its printing at H&A.

The book, which costs $40, will be launched at Hind Quarters Cafe & Bar on October 3. The two suggest that everyone, at least in Waverley, should purchase a copy, even if they are not interested in history, “Because one day they could be the recipient of the services of the fire brigade.”

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Council choices and trade-offs - what’s the real cost?

Whanganui District Council is asking its community to take part in a new survey about council activities, service levels and the choices that could influence future rates decisions.

The survey opens on Thursday, 17 September 2026 and closes on Monday, 5 October 2026. It asks people to look across council activities and rate, on a scale, the level of budget cuts they would be comfortable with if that helped lower future rates rises.

Mayor Andrew Tripe says the survey is an early opportunity for the Whanganui community to help shape the conversation before formal consultation on the council’s long-term plan 2027–2037 begins next year. Feedback will help inform elected member discussions on service levels, investment priorities and trade-offs in the coming months.

“We started work back in the last triennium seeking to get our books in order, closing off legacy projects, and tidying up the past. With a wave of local government reform bearing down, and an exciting future to prepare Whanganui for, we need to face the brutal facts and deal with them, so we are fit for what's ahead.”

He says some difficult decisions will need to be considered as work begins on the first long-term plan to include rates capping, which is likely to come into effect from 2029.

“The aim of rates capping is to improve affordability and predictability for ratepayers. That’s fair. We know rates and the cost of living are front of mind for many households. When rates rise, people feel it.

“The council is also facing rising costs. We have to be upfront about what it costs now to provide the services people rely on,” says Mayor Andrew.

“This survey asks a pretty direct question: if people want lower rates rises, where would they be prepared to see council services reduced? There are no easy answers, but we need to understand what matters most to our community before elected members make decisions.”

The survey covers a wide range of council activities, including roads and footpaths, parks and open spaces, libraries, pools, community facilities, regulatory services, customer services and other activities the council delivers for the district.

Mayor Andrew says reducing service levels is only one of the levers the council can consider as it works through affordability, debt, capital investment, renewals, fees and charges, and the timing of major projects.

“The goal is to find savings where we can, protect what matters most, and keep Whanganui a great place to live, work, raise a family, do business and spend time,” he says.

Residents can complete the survey online at www.haveyoursay.whanganui.govt.nz/choices

Hard copies of the survey are available from:

- Customer Services at 101 Guyton Street, Whanganui
- Whanganui District Library | Te Whare Pukapuka o Whanganui
- Gonville Library

The community will have another opportunity to provide feedback when formal consultation on the long-term plan begins around 30 March, 2027.

St Andrew Kilwinning Masonic Lodge donates 28 pairs of boxing gloves

Craig Sweeny, the current Master of the St Andrew Kilwinning Masonic Lodge, says, "I read the RCP article late last year naming Eddie and Sandra Tofa of Rivercity Boxing Club as their 'Citizens of the Year' and was inspired by what they do."

He suggested to his fellow members that they donate boxing gloves to the club to be used mainly by the younger members. As the Lodge does not do fundraising, the members had to contribute themselves – and they did to the tune of $500. They then got the Grand Lodge of New Zealand to match it and that covered the cost of 28 pairs of gloves.

It will make a huge difference to the Club as it has to subsidise the cost to families who can't afford the membership costs.

Craig explained that their Lodge is 158 years old. Currently they have 32 members, but are always open to accepting new members. "We offer," says Craig, "friendship and connection, and that includes the opportunity to meet fellow Masons throughout New Zealand and the world. A group of them went to Malaysia recently, a trip organised by fellow member, Siva Namasivaran.

"We are not a secret society," says Craig, "rather a society with secrets." It is not a service club although the national organisation sponsors a range of community activities. It is also open to men of all religions, creeds and races.

For further information, contact Craig on 027 302 3958.



Just Cuts Whanganui wins two major awards

It has been a standout year for Just Cuts Whanganui, with the salon taking home two major awards at the brand's 2026 Franchise Owners Conference in Queenstown, while stylist Stefan Pereira continues to represent the brand as an Ambassador.

Just Cuts Whanganui was named Justice Haircare Salon of the Year - New Zealand, while owners Tim and Laney Belcher also took home the Best Community Contribution Award for Australia & New Zealand.

Adding to the celebrations, Whanganui stylist Stefan Pereira was announced as an inaugural Justice Haircare Ambassador earlier this year, putting him in the brand's top 1% of Just Cuts Stylists across Australia and New Zealand - a network of 3000 plus Stylists.

The Ambassador Program was introduced by the Just Cuts Academy earlier this year to reward its high performing stylists year-on-year. Later this month, Stefan will be travelling to Sydney to attend the first annual Justice Haircare Ambassador event.

Tim and Laney took over the Whanganui salon in April 2023, and have focused on strengthening the salon's connection with the Whanganui community through local partnerships, community involvement and a consistent local presence.

Over the past year alone, the salon has donated approximately $2,500 in haircut vouchers, products and complimentary services to Women's Refuge Whanganui, and is now in its third year of a $750 annual sponsorship of the Whanganui Boys & Girls Gymnastics Club.



Tim and Laney

Just Cuts Whanganui also supports Melanoma NZ, sponsor the Whanganui Mountain Biking Club and a range of school fairs, sporting fundraisers and other local causes throughout the year.

Tim and Laney, who are of Ngāi Tahu descent, have also woven te ao Māori into the salon's culture, including an annual Matariki celebration and Te Reo Māori content across signage and social media.





Spring Renovations



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Outdoor lighting to highlight parts of the garden

Well planned outdoor lighting is something which adds immeasurable distinction to the appearance and mood of your house and garden. Give more than a thought to creating an individual lighting plan for the outdoors as well as for the interior. Current trends indicate that lighting is chosen for security reasons, but think too, of that pathway, dramatically-shaped tree or pretty flower bed.

Five energywise tips for Spring

Spring – longer days, daylight saving nearly here and flowers in the garden. Take advantage of those warmer days to make your home drier, healthier and cleaner – and save money on your energy bill. Christian Hoerning from EECA ENERGYWISE has the top five wise hacks to help make life better in the spring.

Dry your clothes outside on the line

Enjoy the fresh smell of clothes dried on the clothes line. Drying your clothes inside makes your home damp and mouldy. Using a clothes dryer costs about $1 a load.

Air your home

Houses can get very damp over the winter, leading to mould. Air your home at least once a day by opening doors and windows for about half an hour a day. Leave windows open on a safety latch if possible. Don't forget to open wardrobe and cupboard doors.

Give your bedding a burst of sun

Duvets, pillows and other heavy bedding absorb moisture – use the sun to dry and air bedding outside for fresh bedding.

De-clog your heat pump filters

Your heat pump won't run efficiently if the filters aren't cleaned every fortnight. If you haven't done this job over the winter you will probably find the filters are clogged with dust and debris. Follow the manufacturer's instructions or you will find a how to video on www.energywise.govt.nz

Clean gutters

Gutters can fill up with leaves during the winter storms, potentially making your house damp and contributing to mould.

Decks and paved areas



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.

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Spring Renovations

Outdoor areas no longer just a patch of grass

Firepit nights, neighbor hangouts, barbecues and more…the backyard is no longer just a patch of grass; it's a space to utilize on a daily basis! Now that outdoor heaters exist, they can be a great hangout spot year-round.

The centerpiece of your outdoor space is the pergola. It's a great piece to hang lights, shade guests from the sun and add some visual appeal to your seating area.



Time to declutter your home

Spring is here, and all those tasks you put off over the cold months to create your perfect home can now begin. Whether it's about refreshing or modernising indoor and outdoor spaces to create your forever home, or preparing it to wow a buyer.

Spring is a great time to repaint your exterior, with milder temperatures that help paint cure properly and lower humidity that helps paint dry smoothly. Longer daylight hours also give you more time for outdoor work, from tidying up existing gardens to creating new planted areas.

A good place to start, before renovation can begin, is to declutter - get rid of the old to make room for the new. Inside and outside the property.



Get rid of duplicates cluttering your drawers and cupboards, like those six spatulas or six water bottles. Getting rid of duplicates is an easy place to start.

The junk drawer and countertops: Clear out what we don't need or use regularly from your visible and 'invisible' spaces.

Ask yourself these key questions:

• Do you use it? Let go of items you have not touched or worn in the past six to twelve months.

• Do you like it? If it doesn't bring you joy or fit the look you are going for, let it go.

Sort and Clear Out

• Use four distinct boxes: Sort your items into groups for recycling, selling, donating, or rubbish.

• Remove items immediately: Take the unwanted items out of the room so you can see what the room is going to look like. Make a plan to try a room at a time.

Remember, the outdoors and garage are rooms, too. Old paint pots, garden pots and furniture, replicated tools, those five spades that take up room. The same rules that apply to decluttering your indoor space apply just as well to these outdoor spaces.

Once the cleanout is over, you can look at your space through new eyes and begin your renovation plans. As spring makes us feel lighter, so does decluttering.

The bonus of all your hard work is that charity shops will welcome your donations, and someone else gets to enjoy what no longer serves you.

Cooling the home during warmer temperatures



Sleep well during the heat with an air conditioner installed in the bedroom

The World Health Organisation recommendations for room temperatures are:

- 21 degrees Celsius in living areas
- 18 degrees Celsius in bedrooms
- 22 degrees Celsius in bathrooms.

Start with insulation – keep in the heat you have, then add heaters to warm you up. Insulation will also reduce temperatures in the summer.

Heat pumps and air conditioning

Correct sizing is crucial for long-term trouble-free and economical running of your heat pump. If it is too small in capacity (kW), it may be cheaper to buy initially, but it will struggle to heat the area, resulting in the unit having to work much harder, making it less economical to run and dying early. Options run to wall units, floor units, ceiling units or fully ducted – choose the most suitable for your space and house design. You don't need a building consent to add a heat pump to your home but this must be installed by a qualified installer.



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Primary school talent shines on the dance floor

The Whanganui War Memorial Centre was abuzz with excitement on Friday, when a throng of children from primary schools throughout the region gathered to dance at the annual InterSchool Dancesport competitions.

Matching the volume of the dance music were the cheers and encouragement the seated students shouted to their schoolmates. The event shone with the support the kids showed one another, and a packed audience of parents, grandparents and the general public were drawn into the positive atmosphere.

Seated on the stage were the founder of the event, Mark Glastonbury and other judges, watching on, no doubt proud of the youngsters from Year 5 to Year 8 taking part. Students who Mark had tutored at the schools over the year.

Deputy principal Rose Martin of Ohakune Primary School explained, though, that they even had Year 4s competing against the older children because they loved dancing so much. “I think all the children get so much out of it. They actually learn resilience. If you make mistakes,



you carry on. You learn something. And that can be really important.”

Thirty-four students made the trip from Ohakune to be part of the event. Rose Martin adds, “As a school, we’ve been coming here since the very beginning. We love it. Mark's been coming up and teaching our kids dance for many years. He is astonishingly good with our kids.”

The event warmed the hearts of the parents watching, too. Vineeth Vijayan had a smile on his face watching his daughter Arshitha dance, aged 10, from St Mary’s School. Speaking about the event, he said, “It's very nice, because this will give confidence to children when they're conducting this type of programme. It’s great the way the children also support each other. They'll build a bond from that.”

This is the sixth year the event has been held, and the schools taking part were: Carlton School, Mosston School, Ohakune Primary, St George’s School, St Mary’s School, and Raetihi Primary.

Mark Glastonbury sums up the dance programme, including the annual Interschool Dance Competitions. saying, “It’s my pleasure to teach the students to experience Dancesport; it certainly brings out a hidden talent they all possess.”

InterSchool Dancesport competitions results:
Yr 5/6 Waltz: Tyga and Lena, Carlton School
Yr 5/6 Cha Cha: Leo and Isabel, Mosston School
Yr 7/8 Waltz: Freddie and McKenzie, St Georges
Yr 7/8 Cha Cha: Apache and Maddy, St Georges
Gentleman of Distinction: Elyas, Raetihi Primary
Lady of Elegance: Matilda, Mosston School
Overall School Champions: Mosston School

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New owners for Whanganui’s Guthrie Bowron



Mike, Pip, Koren and Clint

Koren and Clint Sewell are the new owners of Guthrie Bowron, Whanganui, taking over the management of the franchise on September 8.

Both have relevant experience, having run Swish Decorating for the past nine years, and with Clint having been a painter for 35 years. But as he says, “Painting is a physical job, and my dream was to move into running a business like Guthrie Bowron. Plus, I now have clean hands.” Koren was the administrator for Swish and will now do the same role for Guthrie Bowron.

Koren says, “We had considered taking up the franchise before, but the timing wasn’t right. When we heard it was coming up again, we told them we were still keen and got the position.”

Clint also has a background with Dulux paints, the main brand for Guthrie Bowron. “I used it while I was painting because I believed in its quality. I would recommend Dulux all the way.” He also used the other main Guthrie Bowron paint Berger, especially for roofs. “It is a good all-round, affordable paint.”

Guthrie Bowron stores are throughout the country from Kerikeri to Invercargill, with head office providing support and products. On a local level, they supply a local touch with staff who are experts in their areas. This includes curtains and blinds, with Mike in charge of measures and quotes. Mike is able to provide appropriate advice as he is a qualified interior designer.

Customers will be pleased to note that Pip, who has been there for two years, remains, “The friendly face as well as being an expert on all things paint and accessories.” As Clint says, “Everyone knows Pip.” She will be backed up by Clint, bringing in all his experience.

Clint adds, “We welcome people to come and have a friendly chat about their requirements. We also prefer to shop and support local businesses.” It is an opportunity to take up the Guthrie Bowron byline of ‘Inspiration starts here.’

The store is at 42 Wilson Street, and there is plenty of off street parking.







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Whanganui District Council is working on its Long-Term Plan for 2027–2037 and needs to hear what you think.

TE KAUNIHERA Ā-ROHE O Whanganui DISTRICT COUNCIL

We've heard clearly from residents that keeping rates under control is important. At the same time, the cost of providing services, maintaining infrastructure and operating community facilities continues to rise. Proposed rates capping and ongoing cost pressures mean councils need to think carefully about the services they provide and how they are funded.

This survey asks about a range of council services and whether you'd support keeping them as they are, or reducing them to help manage future costs. We also ask you at the end if there are any services that you would invest more in.

The service changes described in this survey are examples only. They're not detailed proposals, and the cost estimates are indicative. They're intended to help illustrate the kinds of choices and trade-offs that may be needed to manage future costs. Service reductions are only one of the options being considered. As we develop the long-term plan, we'll also explore other ways to manage costs and future rates increases, including user fees, the sale of non-critical assets, debt management, and changes to the timing of capital projects and renewals.

More detailed work will be needed before any decisions are made. This survey does not cover every council service, with some activities, such as older persons housing and waste management, to be considered through separate engagement and consultation processes.

There will also be further opportunities for the community to provide feedback as the long-term plan develops. We're using this survey to better understand the choices and trade-offs our community is willing to consider.

You can also have your say on our website:
haveyoursay.whanganui.govt.nz

What do the savings estimates mean?

The figures shown throughout this survey indicate the estimated average annual saving on a rates bill if that option was chosen. The figures are estimates only and are intended to give a general indication of how different service changes could affect future rates increases.

Some of the options in this survey may be challenging to consider. They have been included because they represent practical ways the council could reduce costs and help manage future rates increases. While reducing services can lower costs, inflation and other cost pressures mean rates increases are still likely to be needed over time.

Councillors will make the final decisions through the long-term plan process next year. The options ultimately consulted on may differ from those outlined here, reflecting community feedback and ongoing work ahead of formal consultation, which is expected to begin in late March 2027.

Feel free to skip any questions you don't wish to answer and focus on the services that matter most to you.

The survey takes around 15–20 minutes to complete.

The survey is open from 17 September - 5 October 2026.

This is your chance to help shape services for the next 10 years

Choices and trade-offs survey

Information you supply may be reported in combination with other survey participants without identifying you individually.

All information will be held by Whanganui District Council, 101 Guyton Street and survey participants have the right to access and correct their personal information.

Please return your completed survey to:

- Whanganui District Council, 101 Guyton Street, Whanganui
- Whanganui District, Gonville or Alexander libraries
- Te Whare o Rehua Sarjeant Gallery
- Whanganui isite Visitor Information Centre

Or post to: Whanganui District Council, 101 Guyton Street, Whanganui.

Your details (please print your details clearly)

Questions marked with * are required. All other questions are optional.

Name*:

Email*:

Please indicate if you would like to be notified via email about any future consultation opportunities*: ◯ Yes ◯ No

Organisation (if applicable):

What suburb do you live in?

What is your age?

What is your ethnicity?

Do you support cuts to council services if they lead to lower rates increases?

Strongly oppose	**Oppose**	**Neutral/unsure**	**Support**	**Strongly support**
Keep services as they are, even if rates increases are higher.	Prefer to protect services, with limited cuts.	Unsure whether cuts are worth lower rates increases.	Support some service cuts to reduce rates increases.	Cut services to save rates.
◯	◯	◯	◯	◯

Transport and movement

Roading and footpaths

Roading is the council's largest area of expenditure. NZTA helps fund our roading network. For every $1 less spent by the council, we also lose $1.63 in NZTA funding, resulting in $2.63 less being invested in our roads overall.This means that cuts to roading budgets have a greater impact than the value of the rates saving alone. Inflation for items such as bitumen are also outstripping any long term savings.

Current
The council looks after and renews roads, bridges, footpaths, drains, streetlights, signs and crossings, while delivering safety improvements. Current spending is not keeping up with need, with low resealing rates, no planned gravel road sealing and footpaths needing greater repair.

Small service reduction
We could spend less on renewing lower-priority assets, delaying upgrades to roads, footpaths and other infrastructure. This means continuing to underinvest, resulting in declining asset condition over time and likely higher maintenance and repair costs later.

Large service reduction
The council could further reduce spending on roading assets, lowering costs in the short term but increasing long-term risks. Roads and infrastructure could wear out faster, response times may slow, potholes may increase, and some planned improvement projects could be deferred or cancelled, such as the Aramoho pedestrian clip-on bridge replacement.

Tick one option:

Current	Small service reduction	Large service reduction	Not sure
No savings per year	$6-10 savings per year	$10-20 savings per year	

Airport

Current
The council looks after the airport, terminal and runways for passenger, medical, commercial, training and recreational flights.

Small service reduction
The council could lower presentation standards and delay non-urgent renewal work. Required safety work could continue. Landing, hangar, terminal and lease charges could be reviewed and more commercial tenants sought.

Large service reduction
Unused terminal areas could close, support for passenger services could reduce. Landing, hangar, terminal and lease charges could be increased significantly. This increase could likely mean the airport users could leave and may result in greater financial risk and exposure to the council and the airport.

Tick one option:

Current	Small service reduction	Large service reduction	Not sure
No savings per year	Up to $5 savings per year	$10-20 savings per year	

Durie Hill Elevator

Current
The council owns and looks after the heritage elevator between Durie Hill and Anzac Parade for residents and visitors. The elevator is currently closed, and major maintenance is required on the lift shaft and emergency braking system, with further investigations currently underway.

Small service reduction
The council could complete the repairs needed to keep the elevator operating. Service hours or days could be reduced, while retaining peak commuter and visitor access. Safety and maintenance work could continue, supported by increased fares, sponsorship, donations or tourism partnerships.

Large service reduction
The council could close the Durie Hill Elevator and decommission the site. This could also remove the current shuttle service.

Tick one option:

Current	Small service reduction	Large service reduction	Not sure
No savings per year	Up to $5 savings per year	$5-10 savings per year	

Recreation, culture and community places

Swimming pools

Current
The council operates the Splash Centre year-round for swimming, fitness, lessons and recreation, and opens the outdoor Whanganui East Pool each summer. The outdoor pool is also planned to be upgraded.

Small service reduction
The council could close the Whanganui East Pool. The Splash Centre could open for fewer hours over seven days and offer fewer programmes. Fees for swimming, lessons, memberships, the cafe and private hire could increase. We could look for sponsorship or partner funding.

Large service reduction
Whanganui East Pool could permanently close and not be refurbished. The Splash Centre could close on some days and offer fewer hours. Some areas and programmes could be discontinued. Fees could need to increase, and some programmes may require external funding or partnerships to continue.

Tick one option:

Current	Small service reduction	Large service reduction	Not sure
No savings per year	$10-20 savings per year	$25+ savings per year	

Cultural facilities

Current
The council supports Te Whare o Rehua Sarjeant Gallery, New Zealand Glassworks and other cultural facilities. These places provide exhibitions, programmes, workshops, events, education, research, collection care and commercial activities.

Small service reduction
The facilities could operate for fewer hours and deliver fewer public programmes and events. Collection and research activities could reduce, with a greater focus on generating income through paid programmes, tours, venue hire, sponsorship, fundraising and external grants.

Large service reduction
These facilities could open only a few days each week and focus mainly on protecting collections and buildings. Most programmes could stop, some operations could be leased or transferred. Entry charges, commercial leases or major donations could be explored.

Tick one option:

Current	Small service reduction	Large service reduction	Not sure
No savings per year	$6-10 savings per year	$20-25 savings per year	

Venues

Current
The council runs the Royal Whanganui Opera House and Whanganui War Memorial Centre for shows, civic, community, conference and entertainment events.

Small service reduction
The venues could provide less technical, marketing, cleaning and event support. We could open fewer spaces and ask hirers to do and pay more. Venue, technical and ticketing charges could increase.

Large service reduction
Venues could only open for confirmed major or civic events. We could lease or transfer operations and close unused spaces between bookings. Sponsorship or naming rights could increase.

Tick one option:

Current	Small service reduction	Large service reduction	Not sure
No savings per year	$6-10 savings per year	$10-20 savings per year	

Libraries

Current
The council provides library services through the Davis, Gonville and Alexander Libraries, volunteer-run services at Hakeke Street Community Centre and Library, Rangiora Street Library and Aramoho Library, plus mobile and online services, free lending, programmes, public computers and local history research.

Small service reduction
The Davis, Gonville and Alexander libraries could close on the weekends. We could reduce community hub funding, mobile services, and run fewer programmes. The book budget could be reduced. Charges for printing and specialist services could be increased.

Large service reduction
The libraries could be centralised to the Davis and Alexander Libraries with reduced hours. Gonville and community hub libraries could close. Mobile services and most programmes could be discontinued. The book budget could be reduced.

Tick one option:

Current	Small service reduction	Large service reduction	Not sure
No savings per year	Up to $5 savings per year	$10-20 savings per year	

Parks and open spaces

Current
The council maintains parks, sportsgrounds, playgrounds, trees, public toilets, walkways, boat ramps and coastal reserves. We regularly receive feedback that the current level of maintenance and some key open spaces and sportsground already do not meet community expectations.

Small service reduction
The council could mow, garden and clean toilets less often. Playground equipment and park furniture could be replaced less often. Charges for sportsfields and events could increase. Sponsorship could be sought. This could be a noteable difference in general amenities.

Large service reduction
Neighbourhood reserves could receive only basic maintenance. Annual and flowering gardens could be further reduced and maintenance may stop in some areas. Some toilets, play equipment and park furniture could be removed and community groups could take over management of some facilities.

Tick one option:

Current	Small service reduction	Large service reduction	Not sure
No savings per year	$6-10 savings per year	$25+ savings per year	

Connected and supported communities

Cemeteries

Current
The council runs five cemeteries, provides burials and cremations, looks after the grounds and keeps burial records.

Small service reduction
The council could mow and garden less often, especially at rural and historic cemeteries, being a notable change. Some service levels could be reduced and fees for burials, cremations, plots and memorials could increase.

Large service reduction
Mowing and other maintenance could be significantly reduced. Most burials and cremations could be focused at Aramoho Cemetery, while other cemeteries could receive basic safety maintenance only. Some services could stop and fees for optional or commercial services could increase, such as cremation.

Tick one option:

Current No savings per year | **Small service reduction** Up to $5 savings per year | **Large service reduction** $5-10 savings per year | **Not sure**

Community support and grants

Current
The council funds community organisations, events and projects, and works with community groups through funding, advice, partnerships and community development support.

Small service reduction
The council could provide fewer or smaller grants and less staff support, focusing funding on the greatest needs and strongest outcomes. Applicants may need matched funding and business or philanthropic co-funding may be sought. Overall, support for events and community grants could reduce.

Large service reduction
The council could significantly reduce community funding, ending most grants and council-led programmes. Support could be limited to essential commitments and emergency responses, with greater reliance on external funding. This could remove funding for major events and community organisations, meaning some activities could need alternative funding sources or may no longer take place.

Tick one option:

Current No savings per year | **Small service reduction** $6-15 savings per year | **Large service reduction** $25+ savings per year | **Not sure**

Economic development

Current
The council supports Whanganui's economy by attracting investment, supporting key sectors and helping with strategic opportunities.

Small service reduction
The council could reduce staff and operating spending, focus on one or two priority projects, respond to private investment rather than actively seeking it and do less external communication.

Large service reduction
The council could retain a basic coordination role, ending work to attract investment, grow industries and support strategic opportunities.

Tick one option:

Current No savings per year | **Small service reduction** Up to $5 savings per year | **Large service reduction** $20-25 savings per year | **Not sure**

Visitor experiences and tourism

Current
The council promotes tourism and events and runs the Whanganui isite Visitor Information Centre.

Small service reduction
We could shorten isite hours and provide less in-person visitor support. Retail income, booking commissions, business support fees and sponsorship could increase.

Large service reduction
The council could close the isite or replace it with a digital or partner-run service. Premium business support could be charged for and the visitor sector may need to help fund tourism services.

Tick one option:

Current No savings per year | **Small service reduction** Up to $5 savings per year | **Large service reduction** $10-15 savings per year | **Not sure**

Regulatory and environmental services

Animal management

Current
The council registers dogs, responds to complaints, manages dangerous and wandering dogs, runs the pound, provides education, investigates dog attacks and prosecutes owners when needed.

Small service reduction
We could do fewer patrols and education visits. Responding to low-risk complaints may take longer, but urgent and dangerous dog work could remain a priority. Registration, impounding, release, rehoming and microchipping fees could be reviewed. The community could see an increase in roaming dogs.

Large service reduction
The council could respond to complaints only, reduce after-hours cover and share or contract pound services. Fees could increase for services that mainly benefit individual dog owners. This could result in an increase in unregistered dogs and overall an increase in roaming dogs.

Tick one option:

Current No savings per year | **Small service reduction** Up to $5 savings per year | **Large service reduction** $10-15 savings per year | **Not sure**

Environmental health

Current
The council licenses alcohol premises, registers and checks food businesses and responds to noise, nuisance and other public-health issues.

Small service reduction
The council could keep required food, alcohol and public-health work. It could do fewer proactive visits and take longer on low-risk noise and nuisance complaints. Fees for food checks, alcohol licensing and repeat inspections could increase within legal limits.

Large service reduction
The council could provide a minimal, complaints-led service. After-hours noise response could be limited, most education and proactive checks could stop and fees could increase as much as legally allowed. The council could also explore shared services.

Tick one option:

Current No savings per year | **Small service reduction** Up to $5 savings per year | **Large service reduction** $5-10 savings per year | **Not sure**

Building and resource consenting

Current
The council provides advice, processes building and resource consents, inspects work, issues certificates, monitors compliance and enforces building and planning rules.

Small service reduction
We could provide less free advice and less counter time, use more standard processes and do less proactive monitoring. Work could focus on legal deadlines and high-risk cases. Consent, inspection and monitoring fees could be updated to reflect actual costs.

Large service reduction
The council could provide only the minimal service needed to meet legal and accreditation requirements, with more work outsourced. In-person advice and flexibility at busy times could reduce and more pre-application and specialist advice could be charged for.

Tick one option:

Current No savings per year | **Small service reduction** Up to $5 savings per year | **Large service reduction** $5-10 savings per year | **Not sure**

Customer and corporate services

Customer services - general and regulatory

Current
The council answers enquiries, complaints and service requests, takes payments, receives applications and helps people through processes in person, by phone and online.

Small service reduction
We could shorten counter and phone hours, move more payments and applications online, and provide less help with applications. Card, printing and optional
transaction costs could be recovered, and the council could provide paid services for partner organisations.

Large service reduction
The council could move to a mainly digital and appointment-based service. Phone support could be limited and application assistance reduced. Overall, this could significantly reduce our customer support.

Tick one option:

Current
No savings per year

Small service reduction
Up to $5 savings per year

Large service reduction
$10-15 savings per year

Not sure

Corporate services

Current
The council's internal teams provide strategy, finance, people and safety, legal, risk, communications, technology, project support, and Iwi and Hapū engagement to help the council meet its obligations and serve the community.

Small service reduction
The council could reduce reporting, policy advice, communications, engagement, training, project support and service desk hours. Specialist teams could focus on legal obligations and high-risk work, with some support costs recovered from projects, council organisations and external users.

Large service reduction
The council could retain only essential legal, financial, employment, technology, security, compliance and critical risk functions. More work may be outsourced, managers could take on greater responsibility and shared services could be expanded. This could result in a more reactive organisation with increased risk exposure.

Tick one option:

Current
No savings per year

Small service reduction
$6-10 savings per year

Large service reduction
$10-20 savings per year

Not sure

Having completed this survey, to which degree do you still support cuts if it leads to lower rates increase?

Strongly oppose
Keep services as they are, even if rates increases are higher.

Oppose
Prefer to protect services, with limited cuts.

Neutral/unsure
Unsure whether cuts are worth lower rates increases.

Support
Support some service cuts to reduce rates increases.

Strongly support
Cut services to save rates.

Now that you've considered possible reductions, is there anything else you think the council should invest more?
Comments:

Do you have other comments or thoughts we should be considering in the long-term plan?

TE KAUNIHERA Ā-ROHE O Whanganui DISTRICT COUNCIL

Please return your completed survey to:

- Whanganui District Council, 101 Guyton Street, Whanganui
- Whanganui District, Gonville or Alexander libraries
- Te Whare o Rehua Sarjeant Gallery
- Whanganui isite Visitor Information Centre

Or post to: Whanganui District Council, 101 Guyton Street, Whanganui.

06 349 0001
whanganui.govt.nz
facebook.com/whanganuidistrictcouncil
haveyoursay@whanganui.govt.nz

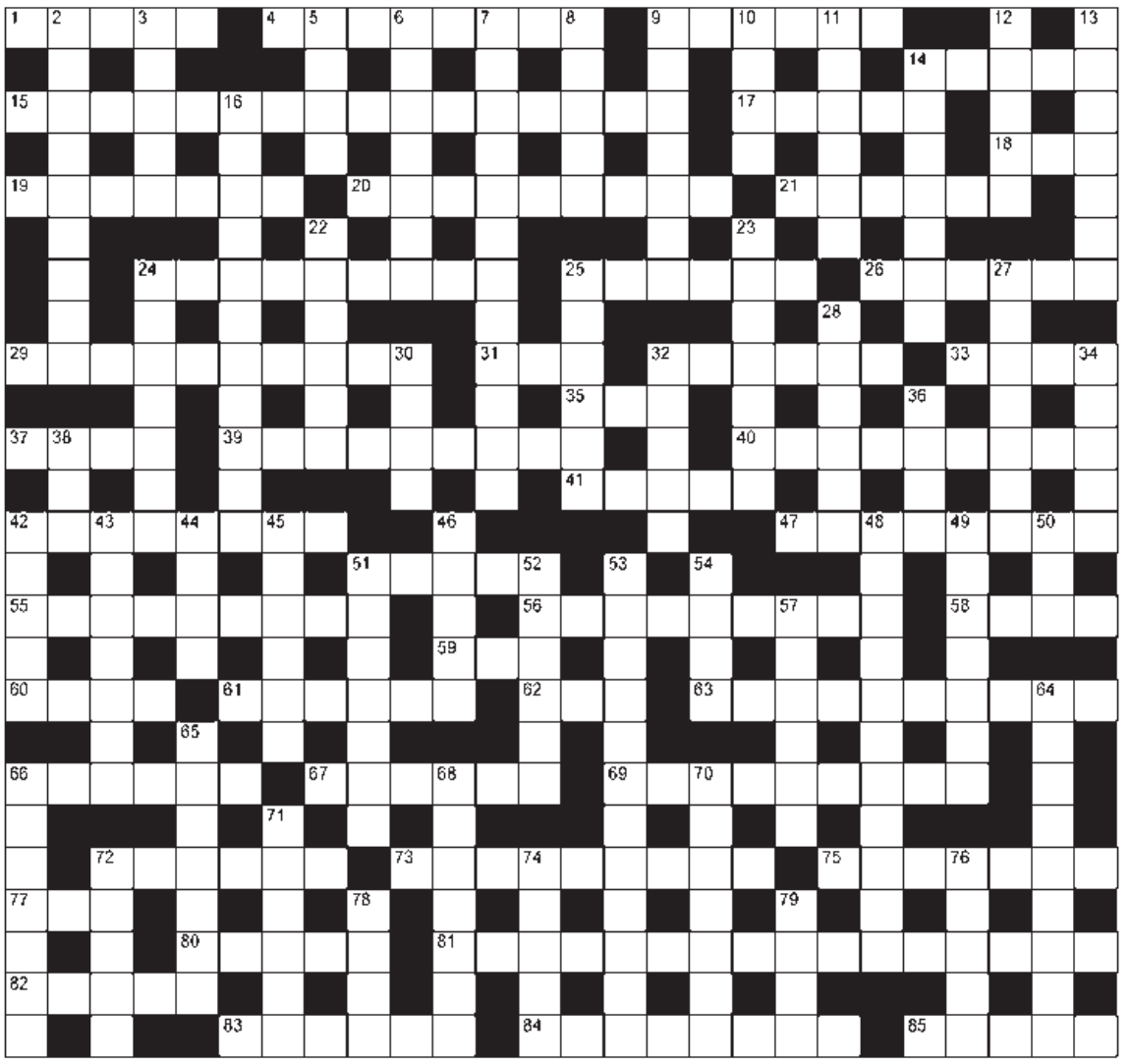
Jumbo crossword

ACROSS

1 Excessively fat (5)
4 In the open air (8)
9 Turn aside, deflect (6)
14 Penniless (5)
15 Jonathan Swift satire (9,7)
17 Punctuation mark (5)
18 Fabric scrap (3)
19 Celebrate (7)
20 Light metal (9)
21 Naked (6)
24 Started (9)
25 Of the stars (6)
26 Quick to take offence (6)
29 Film, TV drama or stage play taken from a written work (10)
31 Brim (3)
32 Loathing (6)
33 Knock (4)
35 Organ of sight (3)
37 Musical work (4)
39 Country in SE Asia (9)
40 Viewer (9)
41 Scallywag (5)
42 Horticulturist (8)
47 Sully (8)
51 Drug addicts (5)
55 Intentionally overhear (9)
56 Showing possibilities (9)
58 Appear (4)
59 Bind (3)
60 Gramophone record (4)
61 Pain in the chest (6)
62 Unreturnable serve (3)
63 Theory (10)
66 Self-effacing (6)
67 Slough (anag)(6)
69 Building designer (9)
72 Dozing (6)
73 Animal collection (9)
75 Bibliotheca (7)
77 Small amount (3)
80 Changes direction (5)
81 Badly considered decision (5,2,9)
82 Bring up (5)
83 Fractures (6)
84 Bothersome (8)
85 Confronted (5)

DOWN

2 Broad tree-lined avenue (9)
3 Volley of shots (5)
5 Entice (4)
6 Withdraw (7)
7 Colourful leaded pane (7,5)
8 Cricket spells (5)
9 Repugnance (7)
10 Workshop bench clamp (4)
11 Gypsy (6)
12 Plank (5)
13 Drawn out (7)
14 Inflatable rubber bag (7)
16 Precaution against disease (11)
22 Neatened (6)
23 Milk sugar (7)
24 Presumed upon (7)
25 Come into view (6)
27 Flat-topped shop fitment (7)
28 Calm (6)
30 Religious sisters (4)
32 Living fence (5)
34 Doorway shelter (5)
36 Check or stop (4)
38 Small vegetable (3)
42 Avarice (5)
43 Brought up to date (7)
44 Compass point (4)
45 Task (6)
46 Wax match (5)
48 Tourists' activity (11)
49 Examine (7)
50 Signal (3)
51 Perpendicular (7)
52 Utters (6)
53 Solid figure with twelve faces (12)
54 Near (4)
57 Mar (6)
64 Lack of knowledge (9)
65 Set apart (7)
66 Enigma (7)
68 Futile (7)
70 In the main (7)
71 Great fear (6)
72 Confess to (5)
74 Major artery (5)
76 Cuban dance (5)
78 Continent (4)
79 Downfall (4)



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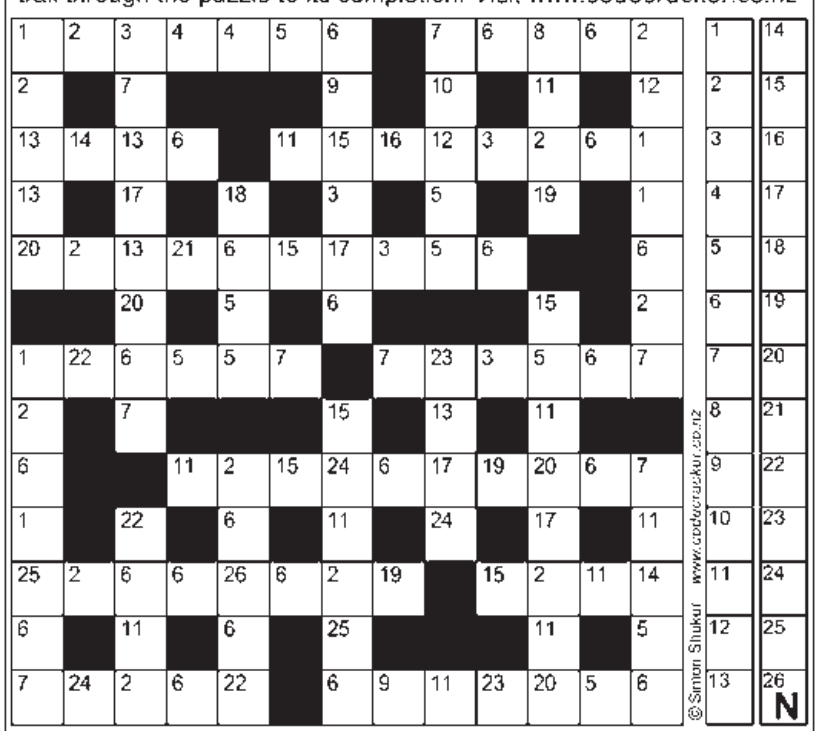
SIMON SHUKER'S CODE-CRACKER Extra 926

EACH number in our Code-Cracker grid represents a different letter of the alphabet. For example, today 26 represents N, so fill in N every time the figure 26 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*



Sudoku

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

MEDIUM

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

Previous solution

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

Previous solution

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

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www.thepuzzlecompany.co.nz

Previous crossword solution

ACROSS: 1 Suite, 4 Tilt at windmills, 14 Drain, 15 Mimic, 16 Ridiculous 17 Lance, 19 Elf, 20 Outlook, 21 Diversion, 22 Envied, 25 Bandstand, 27 Desire, 28 Peddle, 33 Formulated, 35 All, 36 Combat, 37 Avid, 39 Era, 41 Gaining, 42 Asylum, 43 Candidate, 44 Merge, 45 Greatest, 50 Ra, 51 Immodest, 55 Spine, 58 Portfolio, 59 Atomic, 60 Stirrup, 61 Eel, 63 Dock, 64 Devoid, 65 Irk, 66 Consonants, 68 Seesaw, 69 Triple, 71 Associate, 76 Factor, 77 Tolerable, 79 Pannier, 81 Due, 84 Disco, 85 Indistinct, 86 Musty, 87 Eerie, 88 Wish you were here, 89 Askew.
DOWN: 2 Unique, 3 Trill, 5 Iris, 6 Tuition, 7 Toupee, 8 Irons, 9 Despots, 10 Idle, 11 Lining, 12 Faded, 13 Sniffle, 14 Devised, 18 Condolence, 23 State, 24 Grimace, 26 Ammonia, 27 Dilemma, 29 Deviate, 30 Hot air, 31 Walls, 32 Magnum, 34 Dusk, 36 Carry, 38 Dwelt, 40 Lino, 45 Gaped, 46 Earache, 47 Tofu, 48 Seller, 49 Fired, 50 Realise, 52 Methodical, 53 Dormant, 54 Stunts, 55 Sojourn, 56 Books, 57 Zinc, 62 Union, 67 Bar code, 68 Studied, 70 Proviso, 72 Selfish, 73 Bonsai, 74 Hawser, 75 Beetle, 76 Ferry, 78 Endow, 80 Nouns, 82 Moth, 83 Scar.

5x5

T		C		S
	W		S	
M		N		A
	I		E	
S		A		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	M	A	L	T
T	A	M	E	R
A	S	I	D	E
L	O	D	G	E
K	N	E	E	S

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TopTracer Golf Technology introduced to Rivercity Golf



After two and a half years of planning, Rivercity Golf has now launched TopTracer Range, making them one of only ten Top-Tracer facilities in New Zealand and the only one anywhere between Whanganui, Wellington and Hastings. The technology was introduced in 2012, and currently there are 1500 of them worldwide.

TopTracer brings world-class ball-tracking technology to Whanganui. Whether you are a serious golfer chasing data, a casual hitter wanting to relax or a family looking for fun games for the kids, it genuinely has something for everyone.

The advantages are immediate. As soon as you've hit the ball on the range, it will tell you the distance achieved, ball speed, launch angle, the apex, curve, carry and, unfortunately, perhaps whether it went out of range. As Ivan Howe from Rivercity Golf says, "It's a game-changer."

"It is best to download the app and be logged in," he explains. All your shots will be recorded onto your profile. It can be more than just hitting long and hard. There are opportunities to play for a hole in one or a nearest-the-pin competition.

Different programmes available onscreen

There are a number There are a number of programmes for both adults and young golfers. They include:

TopTracer 30

You have 30 shots to give you a snapshot of your current strengths and weaknesses, and, importantly, includes insights on how to improve your game. You can choose to use different clubs, from short wedges to full drives. You will be given a TopTracer handicap, which you can compare with the handicap you currently have, if you have one.

Ivan explains that "Live feedback on the screens helps people instantly understand how their swing affects the ball flight, and I'm excited to use it in new school programmes to help grow the game locally."

TopTracer Coach

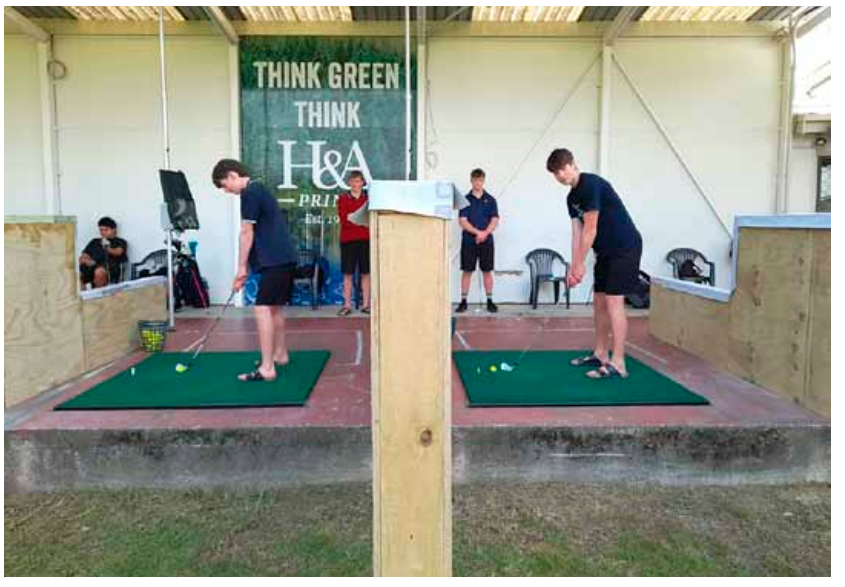
This is for coaches, and through this programme, Ivan has the ability to provide lessons and customised assignments to complete. In real time, he can also ensure that trainees complete them and can see progress from any laptop throughout the world.

Ivan is a qualified coach and a member of the Professional Golfers Association.

For younger players and perhaps older players keen to have fun, there are other programmes that will appeal. They include:

- Go Fish. For one to eight players; it tracks all your shots, adds them to your profile, and you earn points.
- Angry Birds. The screen will show a building, and your challenge is to knock it down, which happens before your eyes. It rewards accuracy and distance control, so don't hit it too hard or too high. It is great for kids, and these programmes will keep them engaged.

Another attraction for golfers is that you can 'play' one of the famous courses around the world such as St Andrews, Scotland. Ivan advises that the technology will soon include New Zealand courses.



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What are the costs and hours?

Costs

The costs have been kept low enough to appeal to a wide cross-section of the community. They are:

- $15 for a small basket of balls
- $22 for a medium basket, and
- $27 for a large basket.

You are provided with a 7 iron, and for an extra $10 you use a driver or a wedge.

Bookings are by walk-ins, and, so far, there have been good numbers of customers, including secondary school students.

But it is more than just improving your golf. As Ivan points out, "the range and technology are available for functions including birthday parties."

There are currently 10 bays, up from eight, and this will expand to 13 - 17. Of the 10, two are for left handers and out of the 13, 3 will be for left handers.

Hours

Opening daylight saving hours are:

- Monday to Friday 9am to 6.30pm
- Saturday and Sundays 7am to 6.30pm.

Late nights to come.

Future developments to come

As for the future, further stages for development are:

- Continuation of permanent roof coverage over all the bays
- Pushing the boundary fence out as demand grows
- Extend sideways to the right (facing the course), providing another three to four bays
- Extend to the left.

Another development is to put in a mini golf game on artificial turf in front of the shop. Ivan hopes to have it in place by the end of the year.

As Ivan says, "This upgrade has only been possible thanks to our sponsors, the public, and the Tawhero Golf Club members who've supported us over the past five and a half years. And a huge thanks to the team behind the install – Jay from TopTracer Australia, Stu from Enhance Technologies, James in England, and all the volunteers who helped make it happen. It is an exciting time for golf in Whanganui."



Whanganui mayor Andrew Tripe practising his swing at Rivercity Golf



Mayor Andrew Tripe cuts the ribbon at the official opening last week.

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Meet the managing director

Ivan Howe

Ivan has played golf since the age of 12, and says, "I now have played golf for 35 years and have loved every minute of it." He became a professional five years ago, completing a PGA traineeship programme, which included playing to the required standard, completing academic modules as well as coaching.

Rivercity Golf's initial focus when they took over was to "continue to improve the environment to make it a pleasure to play golf at," and there have been significant improvements over the entire course.

Ivan promotes the benefits of golf – socially as well as physically, and points out how "it emphasises the discipline required, the etiquette to follow and the need for punctuality as well as the friendships made and developed. But at the same time – it is mostly about having fun."



Ivan coaching Max Walsh in the lead up to the 'All Abilities Golf Challenge Series at Russley Golf Course, Christchurch next month, where Ivan will be Max's caddy.

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Workshop for women - 'You Matter: reclaiming your worth and possibility'

In the age of global communication, two women 1000's of miles apart, who share a passion for female empowerment, discovered each other. Tracy Eleftheriadis, a Certified Professional Hypnotist and EFT (Emotional Freedom Technique) practitioner and Elysabeth Wolter, also an EFT practitioner, author and artist, have been working together online ever since. Next month, Tracy is travelling from Colorado to NZ to work alongside Elysabeth at a workshop in Whanganui.

It's a unique event and opportunity for local women to learn more about two powerful methods to let go of the past and make joyful discoveries about yourself. What is EFT? It is a method that involves tapping on specific body points to relieve stress, negative emotions and physical discomfort that works well alongside hypnosis.

In a Zoom interview, Tracy, founder of Future Focus Hypnosis, spoke about her mission.

"I work mainly with women to help them re-pattern their nervous system so they can achieve their biggest, most audacious goals."

A purpose that closely aligns with Elysabeth Wolter's through Lizzie's Insights Coaching. Her business tagline is: You Matter, it all starts and ends with you. Two simple words that speak to why they love the work they do. Walking alongside clients to leave behind the limiting past, level up and live their best lives.

Tracy, originally a high school teacher, explored the world of yoga, breathwork and meditation, but discovered, "Even with all of that, with all of the stress and the experiences I had happen in my life, I still developed quite a lot of anxiety and chronic pain." She then discovered hypnosis and EFT and has been supporting others since 2020.

"I'm really excited to be able to teach women about how they can have more, how they can re-pattern their lives, and they don't have to worry about it taking 10 or 15 years. They can have it sooner than they ever imagined. I have found hypnosis to be one of the quicker ways to get people to experience transformation."



Tracy Eleftheriadis



Elysabeth Wolter

During the event, the duo will take the audience through EFT and a hypnosis session designed to help release blocks.

Elysabeth adds, "It's not just a talk; we will be talking about why we do this and giving examples, but we want people to experience it, too."

There will also be an opportunity to book a one-on-one session with Tracy or Elysabeth for a future date, and two one-on-one sessions will be given away at the workshop — one with Tracy and one with Elysabeth.

Tracy is looking forward to visiting New Zealand for the first time and meeting Whanganui women. Her message for women is, "Get curious. Those two words really are a lot of what sums up the process of change." Because, as Tracy and Elysabeth agree, You Matter.

Tickets are $55 for the women-only event at Hatrick Hall, 27 Hatrick Street West. Whanganui, on Saturday, 31 October at 2.30pm.

Make enquiries to Elysabeth Wolter: lizziesinsights@gmail.com, or Tracy Eleftheriadis at hello@futurefocushypnosis.com.

Blind Spot with Marion Hainsworth

With the temporary closure of the Blind Low Vision (BLV) Centre in Peat Street, the local office of BLV will be open each Wednesday morning, from 9.00am – 12.00 noon – in Room 108, which is located on the 1st floor of Community House, in Ridgway Street. The telephone number remains the same: (06) 348-4401. This same number can also be used for general phone enquiries at other times.

BLV social afternoon on 1 October, will be held in Community House, Ridgway Street. 7 October 10.00am – 12 noon - Games Morning will be held in Community House, Room 101.

15 October will be International White Cane Day. To recognise that, members will meet at the Trafalgar Square bus stop at 11.00am, before walking to Majestic Square, where information will be available to the public. Then, at 12.15pm, members will gather at the Mint Café, for self-paid lunch. In honour of this day, BLV is collecting unused white canes for sending to the Pacific Islands (where they are not readily available). Contact the office – (06) 348-4401, for delivery/collection information.

We wish our Blind Indoor Bowlers members all the best for their National tournament in Invercargill over Labour Weekend.

- Marion Hainsworth

WHS band wins top award in Smokefree Tangata Beats



1st place Band winners Ngā hau e whā, from Whanganui High School | *Photo credit: Taylor Vincent*

On Saturday, 19 September, Smokefree Tangata Beats celebrated the cultural identity and creative expression of young musical talent in Aotearoa, with Whanganui High School band act Ngā hau e whā from taking out the illustrious first place title.

Vocalist for Ngā hau e whā, Alijah Ngaronga, was both excited and surprised by their win;

"I feel really surprised! The other bands were all so good, super talented, and I didn't think we would come first."

For the first time in over two decades, the Smokefree Tangata Beats National Finals were brought to Wellington, with the ten 2026 National Finalists performing on Massey University's Great Hall stage.

Artist and event judge, Wayno, was incredibly impressed with their performance;

"It was a really charismatic performance, especially from the singers. They had the most mature sound, even though they were the youngest band."

Moana Ete adds, "Ngā hau e whā were showstoppers; I couldn't quite believe my eyes and ears!"

Ngā hau e whā's national achievement comes with incredible opportunities to further their music careers, receiving an NZ On Air Recording, Video and Promotion package, as well as $3,000 of musical equipment from the Rockshop.

Smokefree Tangata Beats, which is run alongside Smokefreerockquest, is a platform for developing and growing young musical talent reflecting the unique cultural identity of Aotearoa and the South Pacific. Tangata Beats encourages young artists to connect with their roots and incorporate elements of Māori and Pasifika culture through original music that speaks to who they are and where they come from.

Beyond the awards, every finalist gained valuable experience, participating in a diverse range of workshops focused on taonga pūoro, songwriting, media training and more. These workshops are designed to help students build the skills and confidence to navigate their next steps as emerging artists beyond the National Finals.

YOU MATTER
An empowering workshop for women.

An afternoon with:

Elysabeth Wolter
Advanced Therapeutic EFT practitioner, Diploma in Counselling & Psychology.

Tracey Eleftheriadis
Certified Professional Hypnotist and EFT practitioner.

Elysabeth and Tracy will introduce women to EFT and hypnosis and demonstrate how these approaches can be used to work with some of the beliefs, emotions and patterns that can keep us feeling stuck.

Saturday, 31 October
2.30pm | Hatrick Hall
27 Hatrick Street West, Whanganui
Women only | Tickets $55

Lizzie's Insights Coaching

Tickets are available online through Stripe.

You can scan the QR code or go to:
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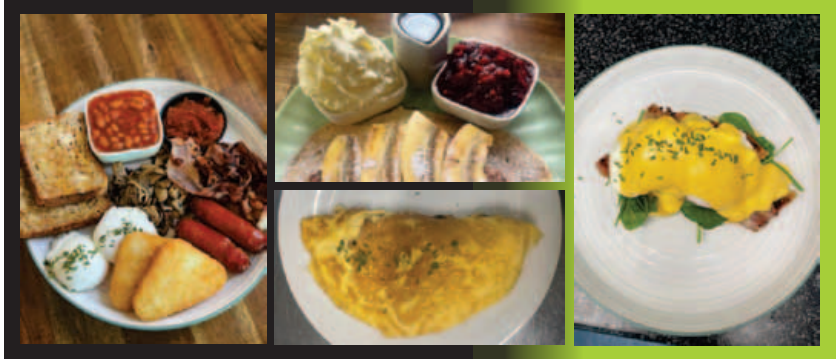

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Coastguard AGM highlights achievements

Steve Turfrey made his views clear when he introduced himself to the Coastguard Whanganui AGM and awards event recently as "President of the greatest Coastguard Unit in New Zealand."

He added that "the one and true constant this past year has been 'challenge' and with challenge there has come change. We are moving into, and progressing 21st century requirements and expectations into a predominantly 20th century cohort of people with a 19th century budget."

In reviewing the year, Steve gave a long list of achievements as well as challenges to be faced.



Whanganui Volunteer Coastguard - Volunteer of the Year (presented by President Steve Turfrey) Don Jaggard.

The achievements included an increase in volunteer numbers, creating a 'shore crew' to allow some to retire but to stay active, training with a wide range of SAR partners, developing professional levels of volunteers, recovering vessels and loved ones, assisting NZ Police, supporting river users.

They also assisted in the removal of trees and other debris from the river, provided safety crews for an air show, and, importantly, continued to provide radio and on-water assistance to all boaties. "There are presently approximately 1500 registered boats aligned specifically to the Whanganui Coastguard Unit."

Other achievements have included assisting with the installation of navigational signage onto bridge piling, involvement with Bar Crossing seminars and support for the NZ Army in their training. Amongst all this, volunteers found time to paint their headquarters.

And a great plus has been bringing into service a new $1.2m Rescue Vessel built locally.

Something to boast about is "we could crew a rescue assignment with an all-female crew."

The challenges include the need to secure a long-term and affordable tenure of the land their headquarters stand on. Currently, they have only a month-by-month lease with the Port.

Other challenges relate to the development of the shore crew option, the introduction of management tools and the need to refresh and write new Standard Operating Procedures.

Volunteers have relied on the support and patience of partners – wives, husbands, sons, daughters, mums and dads, and Steve said, "A very special 'thank you' for all that you have sacrificed."

Numerous achievement awards were handed out, covering qualifications achieved, service, unit awards such as Radio Operator of the Year, Rescuer of the Year, Volunteer of the Year for Outstanding Achievement, and even one for becoming 'Chunder Bucket of the Year.'

Mid-Autumn Festival celebrated

The Mid-Autumn Festival is one of the most important festivals in Chinese culture. It is celebrated each year in September or October, when the moon is full and bright.

Like Christmas in New Zealand, it is a time for family and friends to come together. People share food, enjoy each other's company, and celebrate the harvest season.

A special food eaten during the festival is the mooncake, a traditional pastry that is shared among family and friends. Many celebrations also include lanterns, music, and cultural activities. The full moon is an important symbol of unity, reminding people of the value of family, friendship, and staying connected, even when loved ones live far away.

Today, the Mid-Autumn Festival is celebrated by Chinese communities around the world, including here in New Zealand. It is a time to celebrate culture, community, and togetherness.



~ Bridge Club results ~

Whanganui Bridge Club results week ending 18 September

Monday Spring Pairs: **N/S** 1. T Jones J Kay 62.04 2. K Coombe J Holt 61.81 3. C Brown S Kuehne 60.42 **E/W** 1. D Berry W Hodges 57.87 2=. S Glennie I Kelly 57.18 2=. B Cantillon B Patrick 57.18

Tuesday IMPs Leaders after Round 11: 1. R & D Nightingale K & P Verhoek 159.97 2. G Paulger N Bartrum A Thirtle G Handley 135.26 3. S Walkinton J Nielsen K McIlraith R Austin 117.88

Overall Winners of Tuesday IMPs: Robyn & Don Nightingale, Kathy & Pieter Verhoek

Wednesday Swiss Pairs: 1. I Kelly G MacLachlan 49.93 2. A Thirtle C Fisher 46.91 3=. J Bourne R Terrey 36.37 3=. B Eriksen S Rainey

Wednesday Social: 1. C Fisher G MacLachlan 68.70 2. S Watson Perry Loader 68.50 3. V Bartrum J Donkervoort 59.50 4. S Poff B Annear 52.00 5. A Thirtle R Bartrum 51.90

Friday Social: **N/S** 1. J Dodds C Pepperell 60.26 2. S Benefield J Newman 59.76 3. O Mackintosh S Walkinton 58.33 4. B Annear R Lakeland 58.17 5. G MacLachlan S Dempsey 57.21 6=. P MacLachlan J Glenn 53.04 6=. J Hore J Wagstaff 53.04 **E/W** 1. S Pedley B Perkins 57.10 2. A Hodges L Rowland 56.80 3. A Thirtle C Fisher 55.62 4. B Collins I Newbold 54.29 5. C van Mesdag-McGregor N Gale 51.48 6. H Jarrett P McDonald 50.59

Emergency Doctor Consult Service available at Central City Pharmacy



Central City Pharmacy, 121 Victoria Avenue

Emergency Consult provides health care advice via a virtual consult and is ideal for urgent and episodic care, such as when a health issue flares up from time to time and you need quick treatment. It is not intended to replace your usual GP.

Central City Pharmacy at 121 Victoria Ave has teamed up with Emergency Consult so you can talk to a doctor from the privacy of a separate consultation room in the pharmacy.

The process is straightforward, and pharmacy staff will be available to help you log on and to assist when required, but will not be present during the consultation.

You will be assessed by a Triage Nurse and be passed onto a qualified clinician, which may include a registered emergency medicine specialist, an experienced urgent/acute care doctor or a nurse practitioner. All communication is on video.

If you have a rash or a wound, show it to a staff member first and they will send a confidential photo through before the consultation.

Once you are logged in, you might be put on a short waiting list, but as the pharmacy is prioritised, any waiting will be short. If you are given a prescription, it can be put straight through to Central City Pharmacy and be actioned straight away. If required, they can also test your blood pressure.

The appeal of Emergency Consult is that it will avoid the current long waiting times at the hospital or for your GP. There is no enrolment required. You can use the service as often as required and stay enrolled with your GP.

The costs are comparable to Urgent care fees: Children (0 to 13) are free, 14 to 17 is $45, and an adult over 18 is $99. For international visitors of all ages, the cost is $180.

For those with a Community Services Card, the charges are $13.50 for 14 to 17 year olds and $33 for adults.

Central City Pharmacy is open Monday to Friday, 8.30am-5pm.

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Youth (14-17yrs) - $45
Adult (18+yrs) - $99
International (all ages) - $180

Community Services Card (CSC) Pricing
Children (0-13yrs) - FREE
Youth (14-17yrs) - $13.50
Adult (18+yrs) - $33.00

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That's where HRS Occupational Health & Wellness can help.

Founded by Registered Nurse and Occupational Health Business Partner Sarah Brosnahan, HRS provides practical, down-to-earth occupational health support to businesses across Whanganui and South Taranaki.

Sarah has been a Registered Nurse since 2012 and specialising in Occupational Health since 2017, building experience across a range of industries and workplaces. Her approach is simple: occupational health should support both the business and its people to thrive.

"I'm passionate about making occupational health practical and accessible for local businesses. It's not just about doing a health check and ticking a box. It's about understanding the person, the work they do and how we can help keep them healthy and at work."

HRS offers a range of occupational health services including pre-employment assessments, annual and periodic health monitoring, hearing checks, spirometry, drug and alcohol testing, ergonomic and musculoskeletal assessments, driver licence medicals and respiratory fit testing.

HRS can also help businesses meet their health monitoring and worker health requirements under the Health and Safety at Work Act (HSWA), respond to industry-specific requirements and provide the documentation often required for contractor pre-qualification.

Support can extend beyond routine health monitoring, with return-to-work planning, personal health support plans, workplace health promotion, education and wellbeing support available.

HRS has a Whanganui clinic location through Impilo Family Practice with appointments available regularly, as well as a mobile service for businesses wanting health services delivered onsite.

Whether you need support with a one-off health assessment, ongoing monitoring or a more tailored occupational health programme, HRS works with businesses to find a solution that fits.



Sarah Brosnahan

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Trev's Tack Room for quality horse covers

Trev has been around horses all his life since he left Wanganui Tech and went to work on a farm in Taihape. Working with horses, using them when mustering, was a vital skill. 30 years later, when the farm was sold, Trev and Marion went up to South Auckland, and he took up the night shift looking after 700 to 800 horses and foals on a stud farm.

As luck would have it, across the road was a saddlery business for sale. Trev bought it and soon learnt the skills of making quality horse covers. The business really took off after he was introduced to the Crown Prince of Dubai and his stables of thoroughbred horses. He says, "I would have made 4 to 500 horse covers to be used on horses kept by the Crown Prince all over the world, including Australia, the USA, Argentina, Mongolia, and Brazil."

Trev bought and used Watson's Covers patterns almost 28 years ago. This business was established about 100 years ago and is known for its quality.

Less than a year ago, the couple came home to Whanganui to be closer to their families.

Trev comments, "It has really improved over the years. It is such a lovely town." He is keen to continue the business based in Springvale.

His motto is ***Quality horses deserve quality covers***, and his covers are made from high-quality Regentex canvas complete with leather strappings. While using one of his patterns, the covers can be made specifically for an individual horse. As each season changes, the need to look after your horses becomes that much more important.

You can contact Trev on either 021 026 29672 or 021 252 5212.



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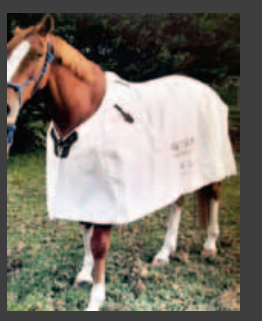

Contact Trev for all your cover requirements.

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DAYLIGHT SAVING BEGINS THIS SUNDAY

Put your clocks FORWARD 1 Hour... before you go to bed on Saturday night!

Get out and enjoy the extra daylight!

Making Tracks - new paths finding favour

By Scroggin

Walkers and cyclists enjoying the benefits of the new Te Ahu a Turanga Manawatū-Tararua Highway are celebrating the opening of western tracks — walking and cycling paths added to the Ashhurst side of the highway. The basic walk is a circuit which has two extensions and is best suited to those with moderate fitness. The most-used entry point is at the Manawatu Gorge's Western Gateway Park.

The full western tracks network covering 9.4km, which has some steeper sections, was originally used by construction crews. Now repurposed, it showcases new infrastructure alongside natural wetland landscapes. The gravel trails are wide and mud-free and and there are excellent information boards and direction posts as well as seating.

The Whanganui Tramping Club's weekend programme for October is:

- 3 Sat, Whangaehu Swing Bridge, leader Peter
- 4 Sun, Old-timers' Afternoon, leader Sandra
- 10 Sat, Waitahinga Trails, leaders Esther and Shane
- 10-14 Sat-Wed, Waikaremoana Great Walk, leader Kathy
- 11-14 Sun-Wed, Kawekaka Circuit, leader Rozy



Whanganui Tramping Club members on one of the Manawatu Gorge's new western tracks.

- 17 or 18 Sat or Sun, Palmerston North Walkways, leader Pam
- 24, 25 or 26 Sat, Sun or Mon, Tongariro River Trail, leader Margaret
- 24-26 Sat-Mon, Tararua Circuit, leader Shane
- 31 Sat, Taranaki Gardens, leader Sandra. For more information email inquiries@whanganuitramping.org.nz

The midweekers have a full programme of interesting trips every Wednesday. Those who get out on Thursday are in two groups, with a longer walks on 8 and 22 October for the TT1 group and shorter ones for the TT2 group on 1, 15 and 29 October.

To join weekend trips, call the leader by the previous Tuesday at the latest. Call by the night before for day trips. As some trips have limited numbers, leaders have the final say about who to take as they are responsible for the safety and well-being of everyone on their trips. For further information visit our website www.whanganuitramping.org.nz

The next club meeting on Tuesday, 6 October, at the Veandercross Lounge, Wanganui Racecourse, at 7pm will feature a presentation by club members Cherry and Johnny Channon on walking the Camino Portugues in May and June 2026. All welcome.

Orchid Show coming soon



Lindsay and Eileen Owen with their champion Masdevallia orchid at the 2025 Orchid Show

The Wanganui Orchid Society is looking forward to hosting its spring show over the weekend of 3-4 October. The venue this year will be the Whanganui City College Hall, 84 Ingestre Street. The show will be from 10.00am to 3.30pm on Saturday and 10.00am to 3.00pm on Sunday. As well as sumptuous displays of orchids at the show, there will be sales of plants – and not just orchids. Several vendors will be selling a range of garden and house plants, including succulents and bromeliads. High-health vegetable seeds will also be available, courtesy of the Heritage Food Crops Research Trust. There will be a $2 entry fee to help cover the hireage of the hall. Refreshments will also be available for a small charge.

Orchids are incredibly diverse – they are the largest family of plants, with around 28,000 natural forms, as well as innumerable hybrids. Even people who have been interested in orchids for decades are often startled to see a totally different form. They cover the whole range of colours except true blue.

The friendly club is a way for people to get together to enjoy a shared love of orchids, and to learn how to grow them in a supportive environment. The Society meets on the first Tuesday of the month, at 7.00pm at the Forrest Lounge at Dempsey and Forrest, 208 Guyton Street. Over winter, the club meets on the first Sunday of the month at 2.00pm. A friendly competition is held, orchid-related matters are discussed, and there is often a discussion about orchid culture, followed by a cup of tea or coffee. Sometimes trips are arranged to orchid growers in other regions – on 10 October, the club has hired a bus to take members to the Wellington Orchid Show. Anyone interested in joining the club can pick up a membership form at the Show.

Lindsay Owen is a long-standing member of the club, and his wife Eileen joined him when she retired from her position as anaesthetist at the hospital. They grow a range of orchids at their home in Otamatea. Lindsay possesses a range of orchids, including cymbidiums, cattleyas and dendrobiums. Eileen specialises in masdevallias from South America, which she finds are daintier and easier to manage. The couple have won many prizes for their orchids, including the Grand Champion at both the 2022 and 2025 Spring Shows.

Eileen and Lindsay find Whanganui an ideal place to grow orchids, with our temperate climate and few frosts. They are fascinated by the endless forms of orchids of all sizes, colours and patterns. They will be active at the Spring Show – Eileen in the kitchen, and Lindsay at the reception desk, selling raffle tickets. Lindsay is a fount of information on orchid matters; and will be happy to answer any questions, or refer visitors to the best source of information.

Daylight saving starts 2am this Sunday

The rule for daylight saving in New Zealand is that it starts on the last Sunday in September (27th this year), and finishes on the first Sunday in April. Strictly speaking, it starts at 2am and concludes at 3am.

The best way to remember is as follows:

- September (Spring Forward): Lose one hour of sleep; evenings become lighter.
- April (Fall Back): Gain one hour of sleep; mornings become lighter.

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- Table Tennis bats provided
- Fees: $10.00 per person (includes morning tea) Members: $6.00 Students: $3.00
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Whanganui District Emergency Management

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS REMINDER

Daylight saving ends this weekend and it's a good time to renew the supplies in your emergency survival kit.

Your emergency survival kit should contain:

- Food and water (enough for at least three days)
- Emergency items
- Special supplies for babies and children
- Special supplies for those with disabilities
- Emergency clothing

For more information contact:

Whanganui Emergency Management
101 Guyton Street, Whanganui
Phone: 349 0515
civildefence@wanganui.govt.nz

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WANGANUI ORCHID SOCIETY

Spring Show

Whanganui City College hall
84 Ingestre Street, Whanganui

3rd and 4th October 2026
10.00am to 3.30pm (3.00pm Sunday)

Admission $2.00

Orchid and plant sales

Contact: Lois Allan 021 267 5441



DAYLIGHT SAVING BEGINS THIS SUNDAY

Put your clocks FORWARD 1 Hour... before you go to bed on Saturday night!

Get out and enjoy the extra daylight!

New courtroom drama explores Aotearoa's first 'Blind Trial' at Whanganui War Memorial Centre

On the 9-10 October 2026, FORM Theatre premiers ***The King's Gambit*** at Whanganui War Memorial Centre. The show is a fast-paced, high-stakes courtroom drama exploring implicit bias in Aotearoa's legal system with this provocative thought-experiment; a 'Blind Trial.'



In the wake of a national inquiry into systemic prejudice, Aotearoa launches a revolutionary experiment: the 'blind trial'. No names. No age, gender, or ethnicity. Defence counsel and prosecution must argue a high-profile case based purely on raw, unembellished facts.

Entering the arena are two legal titans: Joshua Hunt, an ambitious defence lawyer fighting for equity, and Derek King, a seasoned Crown prosecutor upholding traditional accountability. But as charges escalate from minor theft to manslaughter, the absence of identity doesn't eliminate prejudice. Instead, it forces counsel, jury, and audience alike to project their own deepest biases onto the blank canvas.

Delivered by a dynamic ensemble cast of six, ***The King's Gambit*** challenges the stories we construct when the truth is stripped bare.

Can raw facts ever lead to true justice?

EVENT DETAILS

Venue: Whanganui War Memorial Centre | Concert Chamber

Dates: Friday 9 October and Saturday 10 October 2026

Times: 6:30pm Evening Shows

Tickets: Admission $31.10 | Under 18yrs $21.10

To purchase tickets, visit: www.formtheatre.com/productions or scan the QR Code below.

Ticket giveaway

RCP have a double pass to give away; simply email rivercitypress@xtra.co.nz with The King's Gambit in the subject line, and your name and contact phone number in the body of the email. Alternatively, drop your details in to RCP at 52 Ingestre St. Entries close at 12pm on 1 October.

The winner can choose whether they'd like to attend on Friday 9 October or Saturday 10 October at the Whanganui War Memorial Centre.

TROUT & PERCH FISHING

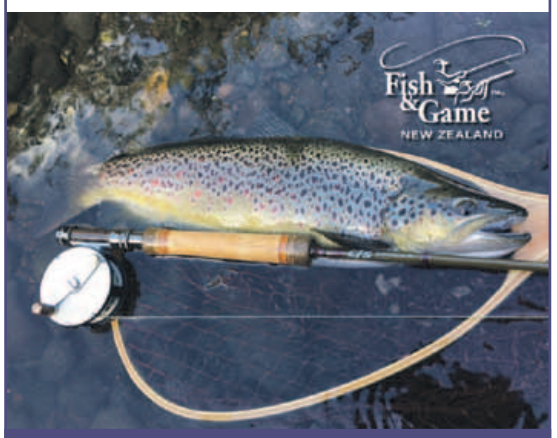
The Taranaki Fish & Game Region offers a wide variety of freshwater fishing experiences in a scenic and uncrowded environment.

Anglers can sight fish for brown trout in small streams on Taranaki Maunga, target the evening rise on large boulder-strewn rivers in the Rupaheu Area, or pursue perch in lakes near Whanganui.

For detailed and up to date angling & access information for local fisheries, go to www.fishandgame.org.nz

Select
- Fishing
- Where to fish
- Regional info
- Taranaki

Open Select
Taranaki Fishing Locations & Access
Taranaki ringplain
Whanganui
Ruapehu



Taranaki Region
taranaki@fishandgame.org.nz
021 270 0239 (Whanganui) (06) 757 9676 (New Plymouth)

New trout season looks promising

This year the new trout fishing season gets underway on Thursday, 1st October. While keen anglers will take time off to fish their favourite stretch of water, the first weekend of the season will likely see the most fishing activity.

Fish & Game Senior Field Officer, Allen Stancliff, says there have been no large floods this year, just a series of minor to moderate freshes. This means that early season flows are lower than usual and rivers and streams will provide great conditions for fishing right from day one.

For Whanganui anglers the area around the southern and western slopes of Mount Ruapehu provides some of the best angling opportunity, including the Manganuioteao River which supports a nationally significant fishery for brown and rainbow trout. Local lakes such as Lake Wiritoa and Kohata will also provide good fishing for perch.



Curly McEwen with a nice Taranaki ringplain rainbow trout.
Photo supplied

For the spin fisher, 7g toby, veltec and paddletail soft baits will be go-to lures, while weighted tungsten-bead hare and copper, halfback and caddis nymphs in #12-16 will be good for early season flyfishing.

Check out Fish & Game's new on-line fishing knowledge hub which has everything you need to know to get started in freshwater sports fishing at www.fishandgame.org.nz.

While everyone requires a licence to fish for trout and perch, licences are free to children under 12 on 1st October. Licences, along with copies of the angling regulations, can be obtained from local licence agents or via the Fish & Game website, which also has detailed information on Taranaki region trout and perch fisheries.

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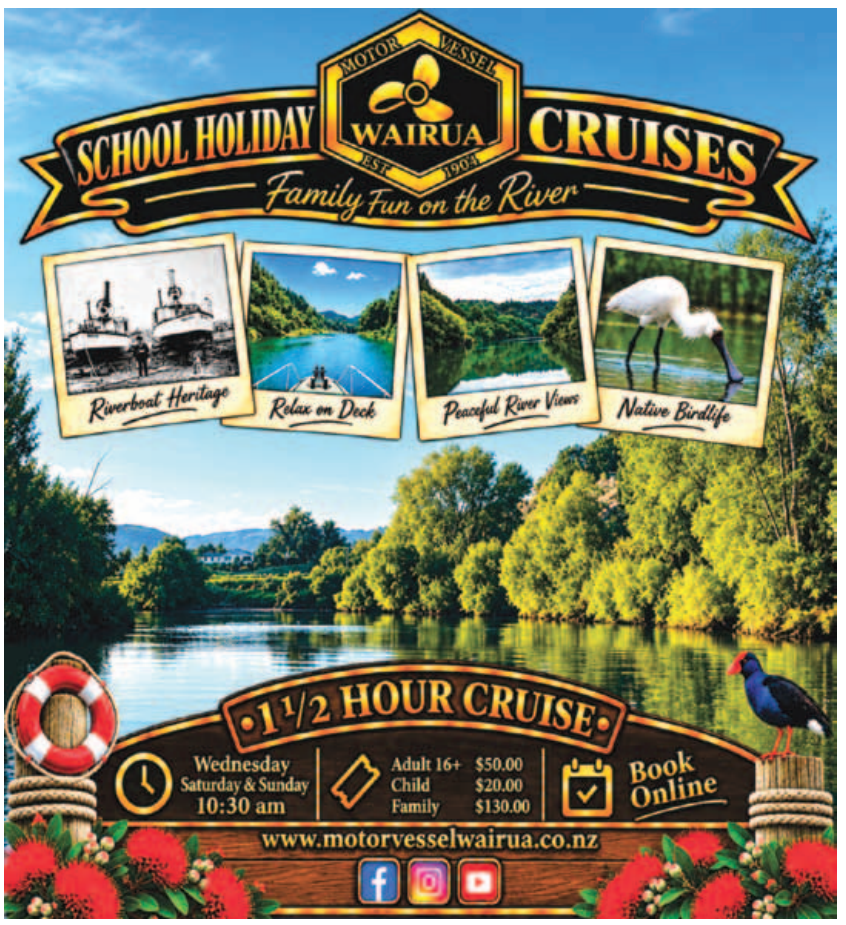

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Tēnā koutou katoa

The end of Term 3 is suddenly upon us and our students are looking forward to the Term 3 break after an extremely busy few weeks.

Over 400 students sat the recent CAA assessments in Reading, Writing and Numeracy, while 820 senior students have just completed our Senior School examinations and assessments in preparation for the NCEA external examinations in November.

Please contact me directly at any time if you would like to meet with me.

PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER FOR SEPTEMBER 2026

Ngā mihi nui

Martin McAllen - Principal







CAN DRIVE

Whanganui High School supports the City Mission in a gigantic way!

Over the past few weeks students and staff at Whanganui High School have been collecting non-perishable items to help City Mission take care of people in our city who may need help.

Senior students spear headed by the Community Prefects (who had managed the campaign) and House Leaders got together to sort, pack, account and load over 8600 cans and other goods.

To generate a buzz of excitement, Whanganui High School runs the event as a House competition, and there was much interest in the final results: 4th- Awa; 3rd – Whenua; 2nd-Maunga; **1st – Moana.** There was so much generosity shown by so many, and we are grateful to Rite Price Rentals for lending us a van at the very last minute because we had so much to ship out. Thank you to the many friends and whānau who gave so generously.

Olivia Wilson and Xavier Booth (Heads of the Community Prefect team) were thrilled with the results and were so happy that Whanganui High School had pulled together so magnificently to help our community.

IMPORTANT DATES

Monday 12 October
Term 4 begins

Thursday 15 October
Sports Awards Evening

Friday 16 October
Pasifika Awards Evening

Tuesday 20 October
Māori Awards Evening

Wednesday 21 October
Cultural Awards Evening

Tuesday 3 November
Breakfast &
Year 13 Prizegiving Evening

Wednesday 4 November
Year 12 Prizegiving Day

Thursday 5 November
Year 11 Prizegiving Day

Friday 4 December
Junior Prizegiving Day



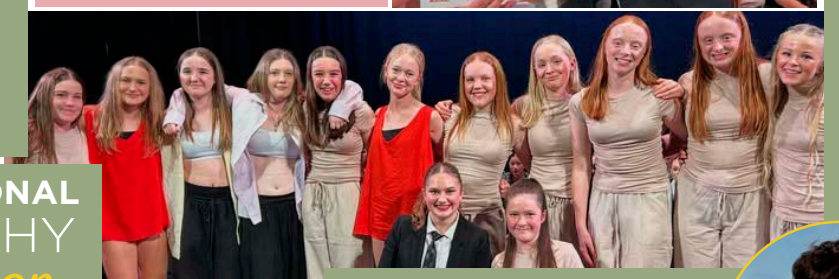
MODEL UNITED Nations

On 18 August, 18 Year 9-11 students represented Whanganui High School at a Model United Nations event at Whanganui Girls' College. The event was attended by schools across the region and was run by UN Youth NZ, a volunteer organisation of Victoria University students committed to civics education. Students were allocated a United Nations country to represent on the day. They began by participating in a tense 'globalisation game', with each group representing a region which needed to trade resources, form alliances, and consider invasion of the other groups. The rest of the day was spent as a United Nations General Assembly debating issues of world trade. The students spoke on behalf of their countries, argued over resolutions, and formed alliances. All students participated, spoke up confidently, and represented our school beautifully. The future of the world is in good hands!

DANCE NZ MADE Regionals

At Dance NZ Made Regionals, WHS won 1st place in Years 10, 11, 12 and 13 Solo, and 2nd place in Years 9 and 12 Solo. Duo/Trio results included 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th places in the Yr 11-13 division, and 1st and 2nd places in the Open division. Team successes included End of Beginning (1st Place Yr 9-10 Team and 1st Overall Team), Sexy Back (1st Place Yr 11-13 Team), and Use Somebody (1st Place Open Team and 2nd Overall Team).



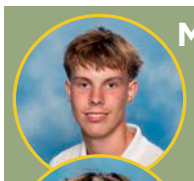




AFM AWARD

This year's AFM Award was presented to Kerby Manalo (Year 13) by Joanne Mahoney.

A trophy for the AFM award is presented in memory of Deb Mahoney – a former student of Whanganui High School from 1984 to 1988. Deb passed away in 2018 in Cranbrook, Canada, after a long illness. Her sister presents this annual award and scholarship of $500 to a Whanganui High School Year 13 student who is selected randomly.







MAATANGI WHENUA REGIONAL YEAR 11 GEOGRAPHY Competition

On Wednesday the 22nd of July, the 3-person team that was selected to represent Whanganui High School at the regional Year 11 Geography Competition travelled to Massey University. The competition involves a series of round robin activities and quizzes, along with current events and general world geography understanding. They were competing against schools from across the Manawatu, Whanganui and Tararua region. The team of Charlie McBride, Michael Lister, and Xavier Brotherton performed brilliantly and won with a total of 115 points, with second finishing on 101 points. It is the third time Whanganui High have won in the past 4 years.

Congratulations AWA HOUSE BATTLE OF THE HOUSES WINNERS 2026!!

MANAWATU REGIONAL SPEECH COMPETITION



Congratulations to James McGregor (Year 13) who won the Manawatu Regional speech competition on Thursday 27 August. His topic was titled Geopolitical Bullying: What is the point of International law if powerful nations can avoid it? This will qualify James for the senior public speaking cup. Well done James.



WHANGANUI HIGH SCHOOL JUNIOR CENTRAL 6 Tournament

WHANGANUI HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS Proudly Supported By STEELFORMERS MITRE 10 MEGA WHANGANUI WITH YOU ALL THE WAY LCCL ELtech MTVIEW

On Tuesday 11 August, WHS headed to Palmerston North for the annual Junior Central 6 Tournament — and what a day it was!

WHS came away with six wins, taking out:

- Boys Rugby
- Boys Basketball
- Boys Football
- Girls Football
- Netball
- Boys Hockey
- Girls Hockey — 2nd Place

Congratulations to everyone involved

With all sports except hockey being played at the Central Energy Trust Arena, it was awesome having everyone together and being able to get around and support each other throughout the day.

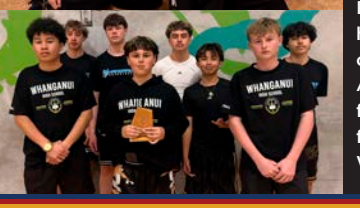












MANAWATU SCHOOLS ORIENTEERING Individual Championships

Congratulations to Bruce McGregor (Year 11) and Xavier Brotherton (Year 11), who finished 2nd and 3rd respectively at the Manawatu Schools Orienteering Individual Championships held at Holly Farm, north of Marton, on Sunday 23 August. An awesome result from both boys and a fantastic effort representing Whanganui High School!



NZ Boxing Championships to draw in around 3000 visitors

The Whanganui Boxing Association, which includes River City Boxing Club, and boxing clubs in Marton, Taito in Bulls and Sal's Boxing in Whanganui East, is organising the New Zealand Boxing Championships at the Jubilee Stadium from September 29 to October 3.

The Association previously hosted the national championships in April 2021, and again in October 2022. This year, it was supposed to be hosted by the Hawkes Bay Association, but they had to pull out because of medical problems of the main organiser.

Eddie and Sandra Tofa, from the River City Boxing club, said they expected one of the main associations – Auckland, Waikato, Wellington and Canterbury – would step up, but they didn't. So, the national body asked Whanganui to do it again. This was in May, and gave Whanganui only four months to prepare.

Hosting is expensive. Eddie and Sandra explain that the costs include venue hire ($12,000), the cost to have doctors on site, hire of a rink, preparation of a booklet and food for the officials. To cap it off, they have to provide a free meal for 300 on the final night. They rely on their large family to cook. It will be good, with curries, chop suey, salads and rice on the menu.

They have received some grants such as $10,000 from the Boxing Coaches Association, and they raised $6,000 from their Corporate Fight Night. They are currently selling tops for $40 each.

They have received assistance in the provision of tables and chairs from Legacy Church, St Andrews Presbyterian Church, and from Stone Soup. Businesses have helped such as their Gold Sponsor Stonewood Homes who donated to their Corporate Fight Night, Gemini Pepper Construction and Low Cost Bins. Unfortunately, Whanganui and Partners declined their request on the basis that it was not an annual event.

Eddie and Sandra estimate between 2 and 3,000 will come to Whanganui for the event. They point out that all motels are booked out, and that an Auckland group is being hosted by Marton Boxing Club in their gym.

Spectators are welcome to the event. From Wednesday to Saturday, the cost for general admission is $70 for those 5 to 17, and $130 for those aged 18 plus, covering all four days. Single entry general admission from Wednesday to Friday is $25 to $35. There are family discounts. For the finals, there are ringside seats available as well. You can contact Eddie and Sandra at whanganuiboxing@gmail.com or phone/txt them on 027 368 2306.



Sandra and Eddie Tofa from the River City Boxing Club

Rivercity Boxing Club has around 60 adult members, up to 50 youth. and regular groups for women, those with Parkinsons, Prostate Cancer and even for those under 10.

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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.

Aliens, UFO's, UAP's Do you believe?
Join a local group for interesting discussions, experiences and videos. Meet first Monday each month. Txt or call 027-558-8120 for meeting details. All welcome.

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.

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

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

Friends Of Castlecliff Coast Care
Monday 5th October 9:30am. Meet at Castlecliff beach reserve. Look out for the red ute and trailer on the domain between Rangiora st and Manuka St.We will be weeding ice plants and mulching native plants. Bring your gardening gloves. See our Facebook page for details.

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.

Jigsaw Exchange
This month's Jigsaw Exchange is this Saturday, 26th September at the Central Baptist Church on Wicksteed Street from 9.30am until 11am. Everyone welcome. Contact Bill 027-912-5835.

Repair Cafe Whanganui
Saturday 26 September. Harrison St Community Church Hall, opposite 64 Liverpool St, 11am to 12.30pm. Metal, wooden & hard plastic items; clothing & book repairs; soft toys; costume jewellery; ceramics; small electrical goods; knife/tool sharpening. Homemade baking & repairs for cash donation. Children welcome. Ph 021- 08900-798. Email whanganuirepaircafe@gmail.com

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

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

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. 26th September 10:30 Visiting Medium Sandra Nichols Meditation & Inspired Chat. A beautiful blend of stillness and spirit-led wisdom. 59 Victoria Ave Whanganui 06 345-5002.

Wanganui Country Music Club Inc.
Special General Meeting Sunday 27th Sept at 11am for Financial Members (Review of Proposed Revised House Rules). Afternoon concert 1pm to 4.30pm as per usual club day. Join us for a relaxing afternoon with our own band and talented singers. Raffles available with a yummy afternoon tea provided. For further information contact Terri 021 420 069

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

Whanganui Film Society
Monday 28 September 7pm: TRUE STORIES (1986, PG) David Byrne's quirky musical satire explores small-town America with offbeat humour and Talking Heads flair. Davis Theatre, Watts St. Members only. Join at nzfilmsociety.org.nz/whanganui.html

Whanganui Male Choir
Founded in 1898 and still singing a mixed repertoire as an unauditioned group of choristers. Enjoy singing, entertaining or just camaraderie? Then come join us or simply listen, at rehearsal 7pm each Tuesday at the Jane Winstone Village Chapel. Phone Tony Ross 027-611-5533 or Denis McGowan 027-252-2246.

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.

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

Doing business without advertising is like winking at someone in the dark. You know what you are doing, but nobody else does.

Recent Bereavements

Sadly passed away recently...

Pauline Margaret BLANCHE,
on 11 September 2026, aged 85 years.
Ernest John GIBBS,
on 12 September 2026, aged 71 years.
Peter Brian HACKETT,
on 18 September 2026, aged 71 years.
Madeline Hineari JOHNSTON,
on 15 September 2026, aged 83 years.
Peter John REID,
on 21 September 2026, aged 80 years.
Patricia Teresa (Pat) SANDERSON,
on 10 September 2026, aged 99 years.
Bryce William Ernest SERGENT,
on 18 September 2026, aged 56 years.
Jeffrey Robin (Jeff) WHITE,
on 17 September 2026, aged 59 years.

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Nature Talks

Thank you for the article on Nature Talks, which was published in the 10 September issue of River City Press. As always, I'm extremely grateful for your willingness to publicise these community events in your paper. It is effective, in that on most occasions I will get people leaving their names and email addresses for me to put into an ever-expanding NT email list. When I've enquired, most said that they had seen the article about the talk in the paper. So, thank you. You produce a fine paper, full of interesting local news.

All the best, Peter

* * *

Paul Brooks' contribution

Dear Editor,

I was thrilled to read Paul Brooks review of "My Life as an Opera" by Albert Sword, which I read with delight.

Paul Brooks is integral in all of his reviews and stories; he write from his heart. I loved the insight and humour that he wrote in his review of Albert's memoir. Will we be hearing more from him in the future?

Much appreciation, Helen Singles

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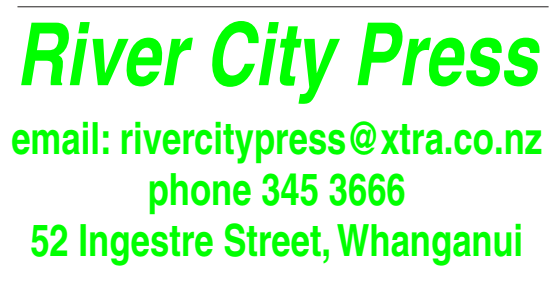
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PUBLIC NOTICE

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

Big rugby days for Waverley

A Waverley tight forward who played 100 games for Whanganui has been very impressed by the 2026 South African rugby pack. Brent Dallison was in the republic to see the All Blacks play South Africa, part of a tour group of 18 and mainly comprised of Waverley folk.

The South African pack of forwards was comprised of big men and part of a team that deserved to win the series against New Zealand this year, Brent said. "They were the better side."

Brent played against the 1981 South Africans. He said the tourists had fielded big men in their forwards then, too. South Africa would have to be the favourite to win the World Cup next year, Brent said.

The South Africans had been "just too good" this year.

Brent's focus on rugby next year will be close to home, as well as on the World Cup tournament.

The former Waverley club, now named Border, will celebrate 150 years of existence during the King's Birthday weekend next year, on June 4, 5 and 6.

The Waverley club started in 1877, became in recent years Border, after merging with Patea, playing in Taranaki and then returning to the Whanganui Rugby Union.

Border went to Taranaki, after Waverley had been dominant here, to test itself against stronger opposition before returning and again being a leading club in the Whanganui union.

Brent Dallison is among former Waverley rugby players who are looking forward to the 150th celebrations next year in June. He is one of four Waverley players who have the distinction of having played 100 or more games for Whanganui. The others are Bruce Middleton, Guy Lennox and Bob Barrell.

Dallison played 100 games from 1975-83, Middleton 119 from 1974-84, Lennox 110 from 1990-96, and Barrell, who played for Waverley in 1965, 139 from 1963-77.

The utility back Lennox became unique in Waverley and Whanganui rugby circles in becoming the first coach in the province to win back to back national titles as Whanganui's mentor (in 2008-09).

Guy became a New Zealand Heartland coach.

Among early All Blacks was Waverley-born Jack O'Brien, who played for New Zealand before and after the First World War, while Ernest Fookes, also born in Waverley, played for England from 1896-99. A street in Waverley carries the Fookes name.

Among accomplished Waverley coaches was the former All Black Roger Boon, who won national selection as a hooker from Taranaki before farming in the Whanganui region.

The current Whanganui coach, Ross Williams, coached successfully in Taranaki, as well as coaching Border, before being appointed to the Whanganui provincial role.


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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

Bains Limited, 1 Polson Street, Whanganui has made an application to the District Licensing Committee at Whanganui for a renewal of an On Licence in respect to the premises situated at 1 Polson Street, Whanganui and known as **Castlecliff Hotel**.

The general nature of the business conducted under the licence is a Hotel.

The days on which and the hours during which alcohol is sold under the licence are **Monday to Sunday, 9.00am to 2.00am the following day.**

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 issue of a license 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 first publication of this notice.

SECTION 101 SALE AND SUPPLY OF ALCOHOL ACT 2012

Jenta Limited, 48 Ridgway Street, Whanganui has made application to the District Licensing Committee at Whanganui for the renewal of an On Licence in respect of the premises situated at 48-52 Ridgway Street, Whanganui, known as **The Rutland Arms Inn**.

The general nature of the business conducted under the licence is a hotel.

The days on which and the hours during which alcohol is sold under the licence are **Monday to Sunday, 8.00am to 2.00am the following day.**

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 first publication of this notice.

SECTION 101 SALE AND SUPPLY OF ALCOHOL ACT 2012

George Hospitality Group Limited, PO Box 12-011, Inner City, Palmerston North 4444 has made application to the District Licensing Committee at Whanganui for the issue of an On licence in respect of the premises situated at 45 Anzac Parade, Whanganui known as **The Cobb/Speedway Garage**.

The general nature of the business conducted under the licence is a Tavern.

The days on which and the hours during which alcohol is intended to be sold under the licence are **Monday to Sunday 8.00am to 2.00am the following day.**

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 issue of a licence may be made in relation to a matter other than a matter specified in section 105(1) of the Sale and Supply of Alcohol 2012.

This is the first publication of this notice.

Environment and Community Resilience are Inseparable.



If you have any questions or concerns please contact me:
Cr Alan Taylor
alan.taylor@horizons.govt.nz
027 348 9684

horizons regional council

LAKE WIRITOA

Maritime NZ has granted the Wanganui Water Ski Club exclusive use of the boating area of the lake for their 2026-27 season closures, which are every Tuesday & Thursday from 5pm to Sunset and Sunday from Dawn to 10am for the duration of the Ski season 1 October 2026 to 30 April 2027

The passive area remains open.

For further info: email: ron@allantongltd.co.nz

Public Notice
Friends of the Sarjeant Gallery
Annual General Meeting

When: Wednesday 14 October 2026, 7pm
Where: Te Whare o Rehua Sarjeant Gallery, 4 Pukenamu Drive, Whanganui
All welcome

Speaker: Jennifer Taylor, Curator of Collections will speak about the transition of the Sarjeant Gallery Collection to the purpose built collection storage facility at Te Whare o Rehua Sarjeant Gallery.

TE WHARE O REHUA SARJEANT GALLERY

Rakautaua 1C Maori Reservation Whangaehu Marae AGM

10am
Whangaehu Marae
11th October 2026

Queries to
whangaehumarae@gmail.com

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

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Two Danish exchange coaches assist at WBGGC



Emil and Alma

Whanganui Boys and Girls Gym Club has a long-standing association with Ollerup Academy in Denmark. Each year we can send two deserving people on scholarship for six months or a year, and we host two exchange coaches that have attended Ollerup. We are very excited to host Alma and Emil for the next three months to help in the club with all our gymnasts. Say hi and give them the great Whanganui welcome.

Kia Ora!

Our names are Alma and Emil – and if you haven't come across these names before, it's probably because they're Danish. We're from Denmark, and we've recently spent six months at Ollerup Folk High School, from January to June 2026.

A quick explanation of Ollerup: it's a mix between a boarding school, a gymnastics academy and a gap year. You live together with a bunch of other young people, and spend your days doing gymnastics, sports and other activities. At the same time, it's all about having fun, meeting new people and developing yourself as part of a big community. We both loved our time there and made friendships that will last a lifetime.

Ollerup has an exchange coach programme with gymnastics clubs all around the world, which we both applied for. Luckily, we were chosen to come all the way to New Zealand and be part of the gymnastics club for Term 4! We were especially excited to be chosen for New Zealand because it's a country, we had both heard amazing things about, and we were very excited about the opportunity to experience your culture.

A little background on us: We are both 21 years old and have been doing gymnastics our whole lives, which is one of the reasons we chose to attend Ollerup. Emil has done tumbling and TeamGym throughout his life and has four years of coaching experience, as well as several spotting courses. He'll therefore be helping out with the trampoline classes, among others.

Alma has also done TeamGym for a couple of years, and has completed basic spotting courses. She has been coaching for four years as well, but her main strength is dance. She does several different styles of dance, with a particular focus on Danish rhythmic gymnastics, which she'll be coaching during Term 4.

We'll be living in the accommodation wing at the gym club while we're here, and we've already settled into our rooms. The club has an amazing energy, which is lovely to experience, both during the day and during the afternoon classes. So, if you see us around the club, it's because we live here now! You're more than welcome to come and say hi – we're always up for a chat.

So far, New Zealand has been amazing to us, and we're really looking forward to the exciting months ahead!

Ngā mihi,
Alma & Emil

Wanganui Exhaust 2026 Mini Pikes Peak Whanganui Hillclimb results

The Wanganui Car Club's annual Mini Pikes Peak hill climb, held a fortnight ago, attracted entries from as far away as Australia. Richard Clunie from the Gold Coast travelled to New Zealand specifically to compete in the event. While entries were a little down this year, which the Club put down to the current difficulties within the New Zealand economy, in particular fuel prices, it did not dampen the fun everyone had on the day.

Again, the weather played ball with a warm and dry day, resulting in the perfect surface for a gravel hill climb. Rain in the week leading up to the event meant the normal dust clouds were minimal. Our thanks go to the Whanganui District Council for keeping this back country road in such great condition.

Competitors came from Australia, Wellington, Manawatū, Hawkes Bay and Taranaki, with the consensus being this is the best event of its type in the country. Our Australian competitor commented that there is nothing like this on the Eastern seaboard of Australia and he intends competing again next year, and will spread the word in Australia regarding the quality of the event.

While we had only three Wanganui Club members of the twenty-three who entered, our sponsor, Paul Tulloch, managed to take out the fastest time of the day driving in ex Club President's Mitsubishi EVO. Paul was chased all day by Richard Mason (seven-time ex New Zealand rally champion), with a final time difference of less than a second over a 4 minute 15 second elapsed time.



Photo credit: Jacinta Fowler

The "Top Ten" format of our sealed events was implemented for the first time in a Club gravel event. The shootout consisted of the top five two-wheel drive and the top five four-wheel drive cars running in reverse order, the slowest off the line first and fastest last. Paul again took out the fastest four-wheel drive run and Richard the two wheel drive run.

The Car Club would like to acknowledge and thank Wanganui Exhaust and Service Centre for sponsoring the event. Sponsorship allows the Club to provide one of the lowest entry fee hill climbs in the country. We are very conscious of the costs involved in motorsport, and make every endeavour to keep these costs as low as possible.

Thanks also go those residents in the area for their cooperation with the road closures, and we endeavoured to ensure any inconvenience was minimal.

Pigeon racing results

This week, our feathered friends raced from Otorohanga in typical spring weather – overcast with a strong NW wind to help them home.

Once again, Shane Guddop's bird came in first, with a speed of 1183.190m/m or 70.99km/hr.

B&A Fairweather came in second with their bird flying 1181.720m/m or 70.903km/hr.

Third place went to Alois Verstraeten 1175.750m/m or 70.545km/hr. Next was Heather Verstraeten 1174.790m/m or 70.487km/hr, then Jim Pullins 1165.880m/m or 69.952km/hr and Benedick Galanida 135.340m/m or 68.120/hr.

Next week will be a repeat, with the birds racing from Otorohonga again before a longer race from Riverhead the following week.

Target Shooting

Target Shooting Results for 12 September

Westmere: Steve Horrell 98.07, Ian Mottram 95.02, 99.04/ 194.06, Shaun Peat 91.02, 88.02/ 179.04, Connor Bunn 68.00, 63.00/ 131.00, Emmett Bunn 79.01, 88.02/ 167.03, Owen Bunn 91.01, 89.01/ 180.02, Hannah Cameron 87.00, 90.02/ 177.02, Andrew Cameron 89.02, 92.01/ 181.03, Jed Glasgow 93.02, 89.01/ 182.03, Renee Glasgow 83.00, 80.01/ 163.01.

Barracks: Aria Hill 96.03, 98.07/ 194.10, Dave Westcott 95.02, 99.06/ 194.08, Raewyne Simpson 96.02, 95.04/ 191.06, Tom Turner 98.03, Trevor Rush 93.03, William Hird 95.02, Patrick McCartie 96.04, 97.06/ 193.10, Lucian Prime 95.02, 92.02/ 187.04, James Prime 95.03, 97.03/ 192.06, Marshall Munro 93.03, Glen McCartie 83.00, 88.01/ 171.01, Finlay Rhodes 93.03, Liam Penwarden 92.02, Spencer Sutherland 96.03, Pieta Martin 88.00, Dakoda Philp-Wright 87.01.

Marton James Jewell 100.05, 99.07/ 199.12, Tony Bayler 97.07, 99.06/ 196.13, Gary Cuff 98.05, 98.03/ 196.08, Fred de Burgh 96.03, 94.02/ 190.05.

* * *

Target Shooting Whanganui results for 19 September

Westmere: Steve Horrell 100.04, 96.05/ 196.09, Ian Mottram94.02, 97.05/ 191.07, Shaun Peat 94.03, 94.06/ 188.09, Dann Palmer 93.02, Connor Bunn 84.00, Owen Bunn 88.01, 94.03/ 182.04, Hannah Cameron 86.02, 90.02/ 176.04, Andrew Cameron 87.02, 90.01/ 177.03, Jed Glasgow 89.01, 89.00/ 178.01, Renee Glasgow 81.00, 79.00/ 160.00.

Barracks: Aria Hill 95.04, 96.02/ 191.06, Dave Westcott 96.05, 94.03/ 190.08, Tom Turner 96.03, Trevor Rush 90.01, William Hird 93.03, 88.02/ 181.05, Lucian Prime 93.01, 94.00/ 187.01, James Prime 91.02, 93.04/ 184.06, Marshall Munro 97.06, 97.02/ 194.08, Glen McCartie 91.02, Finlay Rhodes 91.00, Liam Penwarden 93.01,Spencer Sutherland 97.03, Blake Greenlees 88.01, Jackson Hay 84.00, Dakoda Philp-Wright 91.02.

Marton: Tony Bayler 100.08, 99.08/ 199.16, James Jewell 97.03, 99.07/ 196.10, Brogan Baldwin 98.05/ 95.03/ 193.06, Gary Cuff 97.00, 94.03/ 191.03, Fred de Burgh 98.05, 92.01/ 190.06.

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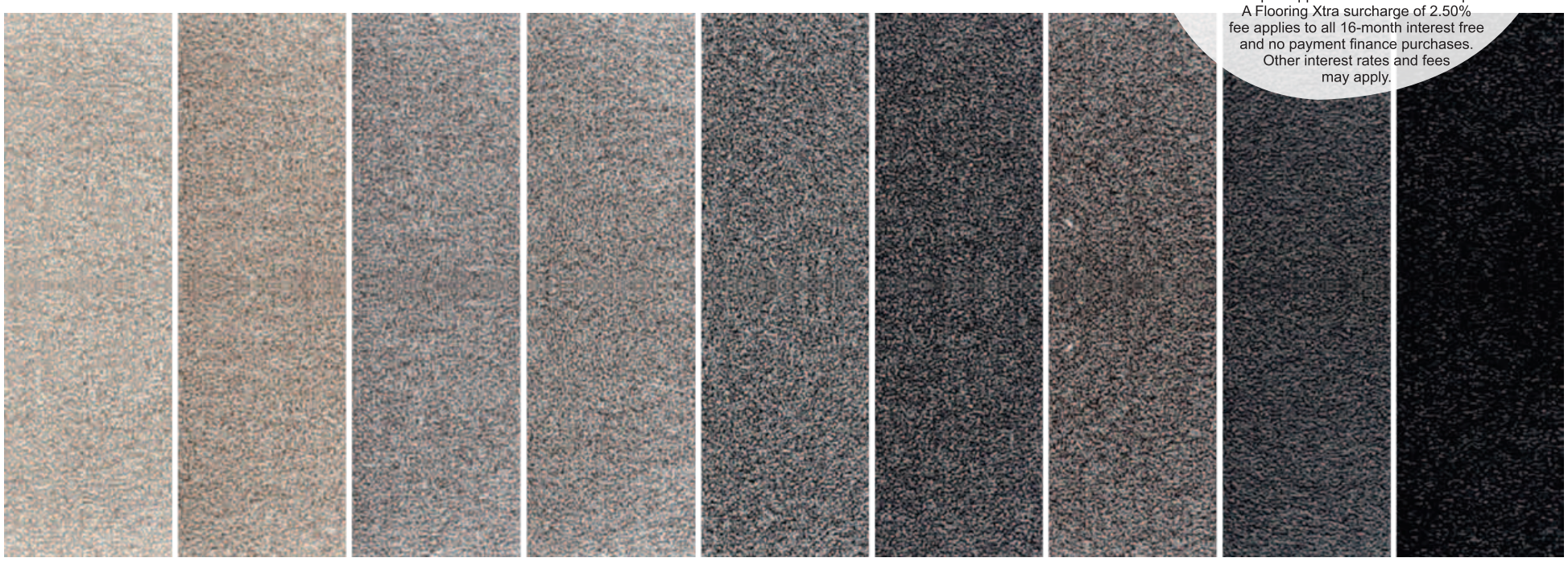
No Payment & No Interest Offer*

*No Payments and No Interest for 16 months. Available on Long Term Finance (LTF) for in-store purchases only until 30 September 2026. Min Spend $1000. New customers need to apply and be approved for a Q Mastercard credit card. Lending criteria, $50 annual Account Fee, fees, Ts&Cs and exclusions apply. $55 Establishment Fee applies to your first Long Term Finance (LTF) transaction, $35 Advance Fee applies to subsequent LTF transactions. Standard Interest Rate of 28.95% p.a. applies after Interest Free period. A Flooring Xtra surcharge of 2.50% fee applies to all 16-month interest free and no payment finance purchases. Other interest rates and fees may apply.



GREAT RANGE OF STOCK VINYL



2m Wide - $68 lineal mtr **3m Wide - $102 lineal mtr**



FLOORING XTRA

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