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Lulu ranked fifth in the world in Chinese proficiency competition

BY LOUISE FOLLETT

Lulu Dufty, a Year 12 student at Whanganui High School, recently ranked fifth in the world and No. 1 in Oceania at the 19th Chinese Bridge Chinese Proficiency Competition for Foreign Secondary School Students, held in Tianjin Municipality, China, over 14 days in September.

Lulu's journey as part of the "Chinese Bridge" project began on 23 May 2026 when she took part in the Wellington regional final at the Confucius Institute on the campus of Victoria University of Wellington. She earned the judges' approval with her fluent Chinese, confident delivery, and talent, winning first place in the senior category and earning the chance to represent New Zealand at the international competition in China.

One-hundred-and-twenty teenage Chinese-language enthusiasts from over 100 countries took part, competing over successive rounds with speeches and a singing performance. Lulu sang "Lemon Tree" in Chinese, followed by a ten-minute Q&A, on-stage puzzles, and maths tasks. The teenagers were judged on their comprehensive abilities, not only language.

The competition also included a written test, not in an air-conditioned hall but outside with rows of desks in 30-degree heat. Competitors also wore their national costumes, often heavy. It tested endurance, concentration and language skills.

"Full costume, no shade for two hours", says Beck Ding, Whanganui High School's Dean of International Students. Lulu's father, Jason Dufty, accompanied Lulu to the competition.

Over the course of the competition, Lulu made her way through the rounds, qualifying in the top 30, then the top 15, and finally the top five: qualifiers, semis and finals.

Beck Ding says, "Whanganui High School is very proud. This competition tests not only Chinese language proficiency. It involves a lot of other skills."

Lulu admitted that at times she felt overwhelmed by the tasks ahead of her at the competition, like having to write and learn a speech overnight, but she says, "I like the challenge. Chinese is really hard to learn."

She appreciates more than the language; she appreciates the culture, too, adding, "I just love the history of it and seeing how people live so differently."

Lulu has been successful in the past, winning first place in the junior category of the regional "Chinese Bridge" Speech Competition in 2024 and being named a New Zealand Chinese Language Week Youth Ambassador for the year. From this year's competition, Lulu has won a full, all-expenses-paid scholarship at a university of her choice in China to continue learning the Chinese language.

Older sister Billie Dufty has also had success, attending the international event last year. But 2026 is about Lulu, and Billie is rightfully proud of her younger sister's achievement.

This is the time Lulu was eligible for the event, but as she excels in a range of other aspects of school, sport, the arts, and academia, we will no doubt hear about Lulu again.



Beck Ding and Lulu Dufty with her awards. Beck also received a teacher's award, which now sits in a place of pride in his classroom.

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Based on European Christmas concerts, 'Christmas at the Opera' debuts for Whanganui

There is something special about Whanganui. It's a place where musicians, performers and artists come together to create inspiring experiences for the community and where ideas become reality through the commitment of dedicated locals. That spirit is at the heart of *Christmas at the Opera*, a new festive event debuting on Saturday 12 December at the Royal Whanganui Opera House.

This spectacular community concert brings together local choirs and a full orchestra for an evening of Christmas music in one of New Zealand's most beautiful heritage theatres.

What began as organiser Virginie Petersen's idea became a shared vision, brought to life with the support of musical director Caleb Arthur. Inspired by Europe's grand Christmas concerts and orchestral celebrations, they asked: could Whanganui create something similar?

"In many European cities, Christmas concerts featuring massed choirs and orchestras are a much-loved part of the festive season," says Virginie. "They create a sense of wonder and bring communities together through music. We wanted to create something special right here in Whanganui."

Months of planning, music selection and community collaboration have brought the ambitious project to life, creating a rare opportunity for local singers to perform with a full orchestra in a professional theatre.

"This concert is about bringing people together," says Caleb. "We have community choirs and local musicians all working towards a common purpose. Not only will audiences enjoy a wonderful Christmas concert, but the musicians themselves are gaining an experience that doesn't come along every day."

The event also has a strong community focus, with 10 percent of all ticket sales going to the Whanganui City Mission Foodbank to help local families during the festive season. Amazing support from gold sponsors Thompson Plumbing & Gas and Venture Build, and silver sponsors Victoria Dental, PKF Doyles, Property Brokers and Dentist on Glasgow has helped to make this possible.



Project Manager Dana Smith says watching the event grow from an idea into reality has been rewarding: "As a newcomer to Whanganui in 2023, being able to give back and watch this event grow to fruition has been so rewarding. I could not be prouder of our talented singers and musicians."

This December, the Royal Whanganui Opera House will come alive with festive music, bringing a taste of Europe's great Christmas musical traditions to the River City. And if the organisers have their way, it will be the beginning of a much-loved Whanganui Christmas tradition for years to come.

Christmas at the Opera: 7pm, Saturday 12 December, at the Royal Whanganui Opera House. Running time: 60 minutes. Tickets $35 plus ticketing fee, available from the RWOH Box Office or online at www.whanganuivenues.co.nz.

Art exhibition at Philp Wrights on Labour Weekend



Louise with one of her paintings.

Louise Herlihy learnt art at Whanganui Girls College, but didn't take it up seriously until about "13 or 14 years ago when friends and family suggested it. I had tried oils and went to a course in watercolour, but that was not for me. Then I discovered the pleasure of painting in acrylics."

Inspiration for her paintings comes from the diversity of the natural world and its vastly different landscapes. She has a love of spectacular scenery, flora and fauna, especially within New Zealand. She will work from photographs but just as much from her imagination and will take ideas "from anywhere and everywhere".

She works hard. In winter, she will be in her sunroom/art studio by 11.30am through to 3pm to catch the natural light. In summer, her hours are longer. She particularly likes the late summer/early autumn time.

Louise has taken part in Whanganui's Artists Open Studios for the past three years and is pleased with how many paintings she has sold.

Her work covers a wide range of subjects, from stormy sea scenes to tranquil roses to mountains, as well as some inspired by scenes in Australia and Africa.

The exhibition is at Philp Wrights, 123 Vicoria Ave, this Labour Weekend, October 24–26, 10am–2pm each day. Louise's works are also available to purchase.

Book your ticket for the free Christmas community lunch



Christmas is getting closer, and Kiri McKee is officially in full preparation mode!

With Christmas getting closer, Kiri McKee, who operates Hope Mobile Shower Service, is in full preparation mode for the FREE Christmas Community Lunch hosted by Team Hope!

"There's plenty to organise behind the scenes, and right now I'm working away to get everything ready before our amazing volunteers join in closer to the big day," says Kiri.

The Christmas Community Lunch is already proving popular, with the first batch of tickets already out the door first thing Monday morning. Kiri says, "The excitement is building! Christmas is about community, connection, kindness and making sure everyone has a place at the table. That's what Team Hope is all about, and we make it happen.

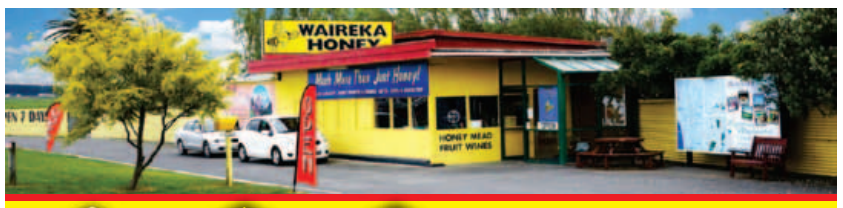
"A huge thank you to everyone who continues to support us, our volunteers and supporters."

Not long now – let the Christmas countdown continue!

You can book your FREE ticket via the Facebook page, Hope Mobile Shower Service, or at www.hope-mobile-showers.com

Correction

RCP's Bouquet, which appeared in last week's paper, had an incorrect caption. It read Nicola, when it should have read Gloria. The RCP apologises for any confusion this error caused.



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Pushing a wheelbarrow over 1000km to raise awareness of suicide in New Zealand's construction industry

One man, one wheelbarrow meets asphalt, sand and mud on the *Cape to Capital*, covering over 1000 kilometres to raise funds and build awareness of the issue of suicide in New Zealand's construction industry, where almost one person dies by suicide each week. That man is Jordan Pratt.

An Aucklander with a prior NZ Army background, Jordan Pratt had been looking for a challenge and found it: walking the length of the North Island with a wheelbarrow – because every building site has one – to raise awareness and support Mates in Construction, a charity that provides workplace mental health training and suicide prevention skills for the construction industry.

Sir Pushington, the wheelbarrow bearing the campaign name *Cape to Capital*, "Every kilometre starts a conversation", set off on 1 September from Cape Reinga, with Jordan at the helm.

The wheelbarrow served more than an interest factor – it also carried over 30kg of Jordan's earthly possessions for the journey.

Jordan soon discovered he was carrying more than the wheelbarrow's physical weight; the unique sight of a man and a wheelbarrow on beaches, roads and tracks drew people to him, who then unloaded their personal struggles.

"The hard thing is walking a day, wanting to get to where you need to be, and then you're having this really deep conversation with someone, and all I can do is listen."

Jordan has been humbled by all the interactions, including offers of food, drinks, a place to stay, or a place to pitch a tent on a lawn.

"That's been one of the unexpected positives of the whole thing – when I look back on the time on the road, it's the people that I will remember the most."

RCP caught up with Jordan at the Top Ten Holiday Park. "It's good to be in Whanganui, because I've got fond memories from my childhood. My grandparents used to live here, Tom and Isabella Pratt."

Jordan asked if "the park by the river" and the aviary up by the lake were still there. It pleased him to know neither had disappeared in the name of progress.

Jordan left Whanganui early last Thursday morning, heading to Wellington, no doubt with a new set of wraps on the wheelbarrow handles and feeling refreshed after a day off the road.

He plans to be in Wellington by this weekend. You can still support the cause by donating to his Givealittle page, givealittle.co.nz/fundraiser/cape-to-capital-pushing-a-wheelbarrow-1300km.

Because, as Mates in Construction say, construction workers are nine times more likely to die by suicide than in an accident at work, and suicide is everyone's business.



Jordan Pratt with his wheelbarrow by the Whanganui River.

Folk musician includes Whanganui on nationwide tour



Bob McNeill

Bob McNeill, described as one of New Zealand's most popular folk artists, is touring the country with his new album *Twelve Dreams of a River* and is making a stop in Whanganui for the first time in ten years. He's looking forward to delivering his one-man show on 7 November at 7.30pm at Whanganui's Repertory Theatre.

Bob says the inspiration for *Twelve Dreams of a River* happened about three years ago, "I was in Hamilton and I bought an old suitcase – I think it was in the Sally Army or somewhere – and I opened it up, and it had belonged to a little girl. It had her name written inside it. There were tickets for a river cruise, just all this stuff from the '60s, you know?

"I started writing based on all that stuff.

"I ended up with a sort of quirky collection of songs and stories. But what held them all together was the river theme."

Recorded in Wellington, the album explores themes of life, age and identity, reimagined as a trip down New Zealand's Waikato River with side trips down the Manuherikia in the South Island and the Kelvin in his native Scotland.

You can buy tickets online at www.bobmcneill.net/calendar.asp Tickets are also available at the door.

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City Mission Foodbank drive tonight

The Rotary Club of Whanganui North Foodbank drivers will be out on the road with their team of "grocery gatherers" tonight from 6pm to 8.30pm. Please drop off non-perishable items at the gate for this much-needed top-up to the City Mission grocery supplies.

The most requested staples are:

- Cereals
- Tuna cans
- Biscuits
- Coffee
- Crackers
- Spreads – Peanut butter, jams etc.

Three-day journey "The river and me"

Words and photographs by Matiu Calman

The Whanganui River was a treasured childhood playground for my now 89-year-old father and his siblings, a stone's throw from the family's Bedford Avenue homestead. Whānau has always drawn me back to the river city, and to mark my 50th birthday, I fulfilled a long-held dream to paddle the famous awa.

A flight and a drive from Christchurch brought us to Ōwhango, a small town about 20 kilometres south of Taumarunui. It's early October. My wife and teenage daughters are with me. Of the 10 companies guiding trips on the river, we chose whānau-owned and operated Owhango Adventures, founded by local farmer Grant Lethborg. Its most experienced guides, William "Willie" Huch and Stacey Te Wano, are connected through whakapapa to iwi and hapū along river.

Before setting off, we stayed at the company's base, the former Ōwhango Hotel. A smiling Grant and his young mokopuna popped in to meet us after our arrival. The following morning, after an hour travelling by gravel road, we reached the Retaruke River for the short paddle to meet the mighty Whanganui. Willie delivered a ruruku, a traditional incantation used to unite people for a common purpose, concluding with the famous whakataukī: "Mai i te kāhui maunga ki Tangaroa. Ko au te Awa, ko te Awa ko au" – From the mountains to the sea. I am the river, and the river is me.







The words carry profound meaning. The 2017 Whanganui River Claims Settlement Act recognised Te Awa Tupua as a living entity, reflecting the relationship between mana whenua and their ancestral river.

Our three-day, 88-kilometre journey from Whakahoro to Pipiriki unfolded through stories of tūpuna, ancient battles, river life, and pūrākau explaining the river's formation. We heard of Tamatea Pōkai Whenua, the renowned explorer whose journeys also connected him to my marae, Rāpaki, near Christchurch, and our mountain Te Poho o Tamatea Pōkai Whenua.

Our first night was spent at John Coull Hut. The second day's paddle brought us to Tieke Marae, where we received a formal mihi whakatau before staying in Te Puawaitanga o Hinekura, the wharenui. Once a fortified pā and trading centre, Tieke remains a place of deep cultural significance, where we were told how local Māori continue their role as kaitiaki of the awa.

We were fortunate to be Owhango Adventures' first group of the season, with the river almost entirely ours.

Its beauty and history exceeded every expectation. There were no roads out, flush toilets or reliable cell-phone reception, just birdsong, flowing water, morning mist and the erratic flight of a lone pekapeka at dusk. Very occasionally, a jet boat interrupted the serenity.

For three days, modern comforts were unnecessary. The river, with its stories, wairua, and the enduring ahikāroa of its people, was enough.

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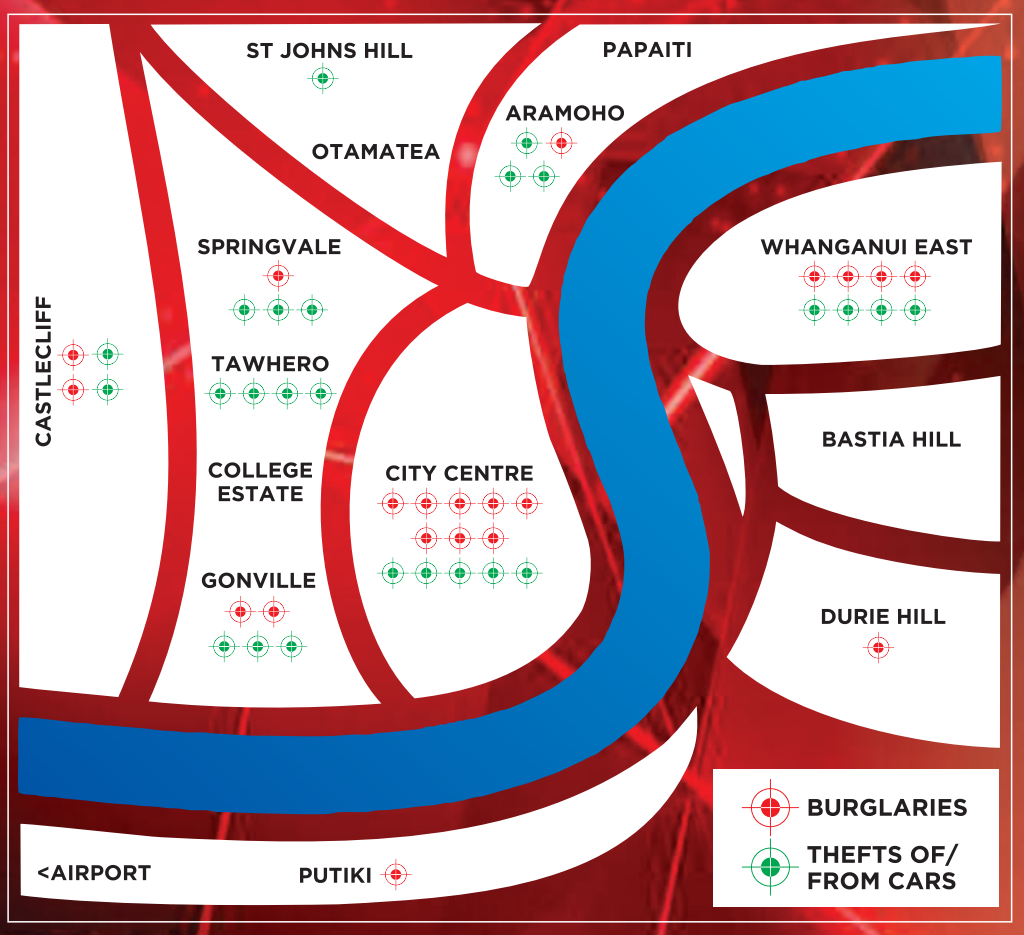
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CITY	Peat Street
CITY	Glasgow Street
CITY	Plymouth Street
CITY	Glasgow Street
DURIE HILL	Toro Street
GONVILLE	Abbot Street
GONVILLE	Bedford Avenue
PUTIKI	Putiki Drive
SPRINGVALE	Oxford Street
TAWHERO	Fitzherbert Avenue
TAWHERO	Smithfield Road
TAWHERO	Carlton Avenue
TAWHERO	Carlton Avenue
WHANGANUI EAST	Raine Street
WHANGANUI EAST	Poutini Street
WHANGANUI EAST	Matarawa Street
WHANGANUI EAST	Anzac Parade

Vehicle Crimes:

ARAMOHO	Cedar Drive
ARAMOHO	Somme Parade
ARAMOHO	Seddon Street
CASTLECLIFF	Manuka Street
CASTLECLIFF	Seafront Road
CITY	Guyton Street
CITY	Glasgow Street
CITY	Keith Street
CITY	Victoria Avenue
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SPRINGVALE	Dorset Road
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WHANGANUI EAST	Wilkie Street
WHANGANUI EAST	Wilkie Street
WHANGANUI EAST	Patapu Street

DATA FROM OCTOBER 5-18 ALL CONTENT SUPPLIED BY NEW ZEALAND POLICE

Attention Star Wars fans - here is your chance to learn to use a lightsaber!

If you are taking an evening stroll along Moutoa Quay and come across a group of costumed individuals swinging lightsabers, there is no need to call 111 – they are members of Whanganui's latest reenactment group, River City Reavers, whose purpose is to celebrate the Star Wars space opera saga. They're basically a friendly crowd, mostly out saving the universe.

Local Paul Meinie set up the group about two months ago, with help from the Palmerston North Knights Lightsaber Group, the country's largest, with over 200 members. River City Reavers is off to a great start, with 30 people taking part at the inaugural gathering about two weeks ago.

It's about fun, creating a fan-led community that brings together Star Wars enthusiasts for competitive duelling, stage combat choreography, training, social gatherings and fantasy. In the words of Supreme Leader Snoke in *Star Wars – The Last Jedi*, "Darkness rises, and light to meet it," and Paul prefers to live in the shadows as "Darth Paul". Paul says, "I can almost pull off Palpatine." But admits, "I'm just a boy at heart."



Darth Paul and Lord Kapiushon do battle at the bearing last Saturday night.

The group is for all ages and genders. Marian Anderson, Grandmaster of Palmerston North Knights, says, "Most of us join because it's a chance to catch up with other people who love Star Wars as much as we do." The Palmy club has members from aged four to 70.

It's not just swinging a lightsaber like you're in a drunken bar fight at Mos Eisley Cantina; you learn forms and patterns, from the simple Form 1 to the more complicated Form 4.

Marian says, "There's an attack in each form, and there's a defence in each form."

A lot like fencing. But with lights.

A member of the Palmerston North Knights Lightsaber Group is moving to Whanganui, and he will help Paul run River City Reavers. Paul is grateful for all the help he has received.

River City Reavers meets every Saturday at Moutoa Quay by the "Bearing" at 7pm.

In the words of Yoda, "Do or do not. There is no try."

AJD, the kuaka bird that has stolen Whanganui's heart, is back in New Zealand

Whanganui's Paul and Jane Gibson, faithful recorders of AJD, know he was photographed in Foxton on 14 October 2026, confirming his return to New Zealand shores.

After returning from an overseas trip, Paul and Jane spent three hours on the Foxton shoreline on Monday looking for AJD, but with about 220 kuaka/godwits, the tide low, and the birds distant, they didn't spot him.

Paul says, "AJD is back to begin his nineteenth migration circuit, that we know of, and will come over the Whanganui in December sometime, if he does what he has always done in the past.



AJD in 2025 with his non-breeding plumage.

He is now in his twenties, so he is classified as an old bird, and kuaka are known to change their routines in old age.

"He is now, of course, in non-breeding plumage of dull browns and greys, so nothing like the dapper bird that left us six months ago."

Roll on December!





A gothic tale for the ages: Amdram present Dracula

Amdram Theatre have chosen the perfect time to stage *Dracula* by Steven Dietz, with the final performance on All Hallow's Eve. It's an adaptation that restores the suspense and seduction of Bram Stoker's original novel, combining humour and horror.

The storyline goes something like this: When the mysterious Count Dracula arrives in England, a series of terrifying events reveals his true nature. As Lucy Westenra falls under his dark influence, Mina Murray, Jonathan Harker and Professor Van Helsing must uncover the truth and confront the ancient evil before Dracula claims more victims.

Steven Dietz's adaptation brings the legendary vampire to the stage with theatrical spectacle, psychological tension and chilling horror.

Director Helen Watson, who has previously directed Amdram shows *Calendar Girls* and *Ladies Day*, says, "This isn't Dracula from a safe distance. Our audience is right there in the world of the play, in the middle of the action, and sometimes much closer than may be comfortable.

"*Dracula* is a story that has captured people's imaginations for generations. But it's much more than a story about a vampire. This is a story of fear, obsession, vulnerability and the creeping feeling that something is terribly wrong."

Gregory Sparks plays the diabolic villain, Count Dracula; ever-popular performer Chris McKenzie plays the hero, Professor Abraham Van Helsing, who leads the band of heroes; Fabian MacGregor plays Harker; and well-known thespian Mike Pyefinch plays Seward.

Simon Franks, fresh to the Amdram stage, is Renfield, an asylum patient and faithful servant of Dracula, or is he?

No good story is without heroines either: Maddi McKenzie is Mina Murray, and Rosie Rendell, Lucy Westenra.

Emily Brooker, production manager, says, "There's a cast of 16 and a new young crew that have come on board as well. They've been involved in different ways before, like acting, and now they're learning some different skills. We have about 30 people involved, ranging from age 13 and up."



***Dracula*: the cast.**

There is also an assistant director learning the ropes, 16-year-old Finlay Barrett, who's done quite a bit of acting before, and Jenna Wakeling is the new addition for wardrobe for the show. She has previously worked in wardrobe at the Opera School.

It's part of the Amdram philosophy to pass on skills and let new people to be part of their productions. They are also currently looking for new directors for next year's shows.

Dracula

All Hallow's Eve performance is sold out, but there's still time to book for other nights.

22–31 October, 7.30pm, Amdram Theatre, 171 Guyton Street

Tickets are available from the isite Centre on Taupō Quay and iTicket (Not suitable for younger viewers)



Whanganui's story of innovation at Museum



By Karen Hughes

What makes Whanganui one of New Zealand's most creative cities? As part of the Festival of Design Aotearoa, two Whanganui Regional Museum curators will explore the ingenuity and innovation that have shaped the city over centuries.

Kaihāpai Taonga Māori/Curator, Taonga Māori, Eruera Rerekura, and Kaihāpai Taonga/Curator, Social and Natural History, Maeve Egan, will trace Whanganui's design story from Māori engineering and environmental knowledge along the Whanganui River to the city's architectural, artistic and industrial heritage.

Eruera will explore how Māori communities drew on their knowledge of the river and its natural rhythms to develop ingenious ways of working with the environment.

"I'll also look at Pākaitore as a centre of exchange, and Kāwana Mill as an example of Māori enterprise and adaptation to new technology."

Maeve Egan will continue the story, exploring further examples of innovation, adaptation and continuity in Whanganui's development. Her presentation will consider how design has influenced the city's identity, from its built and industrial heritage to its artistic and creative communities, and its recognition as New Zealand's only UNESCO City of Design.

Visitors to the Museum can explore Whanganui's design story further in the Museum's long-term exhibition Whanganui Mūmū – Whanganui By Design, which also features in the Festival of Design Aotearoa programme. The exhibition brings together objects and stories that showcase the region's rich design heritage.

This talk offers an opportunity to look at Whanganui's history through a design lens, and to consider how the ingenuity of earlier generations continues to influence the city today.

The event is free to attend, with koha appreciated.

Whanganui Mūmū

Curator Talk: 12.15pm, Friday 23 October at Davis Theatre, Whanganui Regional Museum

Price: Free. Koha is always appreciated.

The talk is part of the Festival of Design Aotearoa programme. For the full festival schedule, visit festivalofdesign.co.nz.

Doing the mahi (work) for Tongariro fire recovery

Hundreds of hectares of weed and deer control have been conducted across the Tongariro landscape since last year's fires, but there's still much to do.

Extensive fires in late 2025 destroyed more than 3000 hectares of slow-growing alpine ecosystems in a blow to the dual World Heritage-listed Tongariro National Park.

Since then, the Department of Conservation and others have been working to protect the recovering landscape from introduced weeds, and browsers such as deer and hares.



Native plants are beginning to recover following fires in late 2025 .

DOC Operations Manager Libby O'Brien says the native plants of Tongariro are resilient and are recovering well.

"We're seeing things like flax recovering quickly, but the plants here are still really vulnerable to being overgrown by weeds."

That's where the mahi comes in.

"We're working with iwi, weed and deer control contractors, NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi, and adjacent landowners to ensure Tongariro has its best shot at natural recovery.

"There's been aerial and ground-based weed control and deer control, and we're using drones to detect pests and monitor landscape change over time. We're pulling out all the tools to get the work done."

More than 250 hectares of weed control have been conducted, and 91 deer have been removed from the area, with 25 delivered to a local marae for kai.

In February, $3.5 million in International Visitor Levy (IVL) funding was allocated, over five years, to the recovery of the Tongariro landscape, which includes the world-renowned Tongariro Alpine Crossing. The IVL is a way for international visitors to contribute to the places they love.

Libby says Tongariro and its recovery are culturally, economically and socially important to the community.

"We want everyone on board, so we're inviting our communities to an open day. All are welcome to join us on 16 October 2026 at 10am at the Blue Mountain Adventure Centre in Raurimu, to connect, learn, and hear more about the recovery work being done."

Further community open day details and RSVP can be found on the DOC Tongariro Facebook page.

Looking forward, Libby still expects to see plenty of yellow this year.

"We haven't eradicated the weeds, so we can still expect to see plenty of yellow broom flowering in the park. This is a long-term project, and it will take time to see results.

"Over time, we expect the scar on the landscape to slowly disappear, replaced by native plants."

Visitors to Tongariro can help by respecting the 10-year restorative rāhui placed over the fire-affected area by Ngāti Hikairo ki Tongariro. This includes staying on (open) tracks when out naturing, keeping shoes and gear clean to prevent weed spread, not entering fire-affected areas off-track, and taking all rubbish with you.

Bridge Club results

Whanganui Bridge Club results Week ending 16 October

Monday Nixon Swiss Pairs: Leaders after round 6: 1. M Meyrick J Zhang 80.62 2. V Bartrum L Rowland 77.45 3. N Wight B Patrick 76.23

Tuesday Spring Pairs: N/S 1. R Sigley P Verhoek 60.26 2. B Annear J Dodds 58.33 3. P Paterson G MacLachlan 57.27 **E/W** 1. C Chesswas G Handley 63.89 2. K Verhoek D Nightingale 62.73 3. S Pedley A Thirtle 56.31

Overall Winners Tuesday Spring Pairs: Kathy Verhoek & Don Nightingale

Wednesday Spring Pairs: N/S 1. T Gunasekara A Williams 61.25 2. R Campbell L Lilly 56.25 3. P Irvin R Terrey 55.63 **E/W** 1. K Rainey C Rothman 63.75 2. J Bourne S Rainey 60.00 3. J Hagen R Smith 54.38

Overall Winners Wednesday Spring Pairs: Christine Rothman & Karen Rainey

Wednesday Social: N/S 1. P Paterson S Pedley 57.74 2. A Thirtle G MacLachlan 55.95 3. C Birdling-Duncan R Bartrum 53.27 **E/W** 1. M Sleyer N Gale 60.12 2. C Fisher J Jennings 59.52 3. B Annear I Back 54.17

Friday Social: N/S 1. S Dempsey C Pepperell 58.18 2. P MacLachlan J Smith 54.89 3. S Cvitanovich B Jones 54.68 4. O Mackintosh G Wood 54.43 5. D Boswell B Mackintosh 53.89 **E/W** 1. V Baillie S Benefield 61.05 2. J Dodds N Gale 58.39 3. N Kennedy J Wagstaff 57.79 4. H Jarrett J Newman 57.01 5. L Vodanovich J Glenn 55.87







OPEN Labour Weekend

Festival of Design events continue



War Memorial Forecourt buildings will be lit up nightly until 25 October, with foodtrucks and a DJ playing on Sunday evening.

Friday 23 October

Old Buildings, New Uses: Adaptive Reuse Walking Tour - Starts at Whanganui War Memorial Centre. Walk central Whanganui with heritage planner Scott Flutey, exploring successful building upgrades and the opportunities of adaptive reuse. FREE, BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL. 10.30am–12pm.

Dalgleish Architects Open Studio - 66 Guyton Street. Award-winners Dalgleish Architects invite the design-curious into their working environment to get a glimpse of the design process from concept to completion. FREE. 2–3pm.

Whanganui Mūmū: Curator Talk - Whanganui Regional Museum Curators explore the design history of Whanganui, from Māori engineering and environmental knowledge to architecture, industry and UNESCO City of Design recognition. FREE. 12.15pm–1.15pm.

Design in Public: Guided Tour on Foot - Starts at Whanganui War Memorial Centre. Walk Whanganui's arts precinct and discover the stories and creative histories behind ten public artworks. FREE, BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL. 2.30pm–3.30pm.

HERE Presents: Open Home Whanganui - HERE and Dulux bring their Open Home series to Whanganui, giving special access to architecturally designed houses usually only seen in magazines. 4pm – Group A: Te Ruamātatoru, Group B: Hatrick House. 5pm – Group A: Hatrick House, Group B: Te Ruamātatoru. BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL. 4pm & 5pm start.

Anthonie Tonnon: Cinematographer - Royal Whanganui Opera House. An immersive live show blending electronic music, cinematic storytelling and visual design as Tonnon moves between singer, DJ and documentarian. BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL. 8pm–9.30pm.

Beca Lighting Studio: Designing the Night Guided Tour - Starts at Whanganui War Memorial Centre. A guided night walk revealing how light and darkness shape the experience of Whanganui after sunset. FREE, BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL. 8pm–9pm.

Saturday, 24 October

Liz Mitchell: Weaving Off Loom Workshop - Whanganui Regional Museum Liz Mitchell leads a workshop introducing the creative possibilities beyond traditional loom techniques. No experience needed. In partnership with Bremworth. FREE BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL. Saturday & Sunday, 9.30am–12.30pm.

Kirsty Lillico, Heavy Falls: Exhibition Curator Tour - Te Whare o Rehua Sarjeant Gallery. Explore Kirsty Lillico's Heavy Falls exhibition through its materials, weaving, architectural references and sculptural ideas on this guided curator tour. FREE. 1pm–2pm.

Liz Mitchell MNZM: Beyond the Bale – Creating High-Value Wool Products - Whanganui Regional Museum Liz Mitchell explores how New Zealand wool can create high-value products using design, craft and stronger material stories. FREE. 5.30pm–7pm.

Design in Public: Guided Tour on Wheels - Starts at Whanganui War Memorial Centre. Experience Whanganui's public artworks by bike or scooter, hearing the stories and creative thinking behind familiar streets. FREE, BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL. 1pm–2.30pm.

Manda Clarke: Design, Distilled - The Distillery – Branding and packaging designer Manda Clarke distils how strategy, storytelling and visual identity shape memorable brands and products. FREE. 4pm–5pm.

For the BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL offerings, visit www.festivalofdesign.co.nz to book your place.

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What is Labour Day about?

Labour Day marks the struggle for the eight-hour workday. New Zealand workers were among the first in the world to achieve this. Samuel Parnell, a carpenter, secured the eight-hour day in Wellington in 1840.

Some employers tried to make workers do longer hours, but Parnell got support from other workmen and told new arrivals to New Zealand about the local eight-hour rule. In October 1840, Wellington workers agreed on an eight-hour day, from 8am to 5pm, and anyone who broke the rule would be dunked in the harbour.

By 1890, most tradesmen and labourers were working eight-hour days, but many others were still working longer hours. The Labour Day parades that started that October were part of the union campaign to get the Government to pass a law to limit working hours rather than simply go on the basis of custom.

New Zealand first celebrated Labour Day on 28 October 1890, with parades in the major cities attended by thousands of trade unionists and their supporters. The government gave the workers the day off to go to the parades, and many businesses were closed for at least part of the day.

Labour Day became a public holiday in NZ in 1900 following the passage of the Labour Day Act in 1899.

Source: nzhistory.govt.nz/first-labour-day-celebrations

Large new murals at berry farm



Artist Merv Richdale, who featured on the front page of the *River City Press* in July 2026 with his fantastical life-sized tiger made from discarded bottles recovered from Lake Taupō, is busy with a new project. He's pivoted from painting the majestic human-devouring tiger to painting gargantuan-sized summer fruits and treats that Kiwis can't get enough of at Windermere Gardens.

Picture a pancake plate 1.5 metres across, a 25-metre-long "strawberry path" and human-sized ice creams. It's enough to whet your appetite – and provide a bit of fun for humans big and small.

Despite working full-time, Merv and fiancée Marlene have spent 60 hours over the last nine weeks painting, getting Windermere Gardens decorated in time for the big opening on Monday this week.

The pair were given free rein, the owners telling them, "You can do what you like." So they did.

"It's really nice when your partner is part of it too. She's been a trooper. It's handy having two paintbrushes in your pocket and not one," says Merv.

Speaking of paintbrushes, Merv says he's had one in his hand since kindy. It's likely we will see more of Merv's work in the future. The tiger is moving to a gallery in Auckland, which is fine, because he doesn't have an appetite for summer fruits.

In the meantime, check out Windermere Gardens on 313 State Highway Three, and when the kids have filled their bellies, they can feed Nugget and Mars, the resident Alpacas.

Big response to council's "monster" survey

Whanganui District Council has received more than 1300 responses to its recent Choices and Trade-offs survey about council levels of service.

Mayor Andrew Tripe thanked everyone who took part.

"It was a monster of a survey, so getting this number of responses was a great result. Thank you for taking the time to tell us what matters to you."

The survey asked which services people value and which they would be willing to change to help keep rates down. Most people wanted roads and footpaths, parks, libraries, pools and animal control kept as they are. Many people also suggested ways the council could improve services and save money.

Elected members worked through the results in detail yesterday and gave feedback to council staff to review selected services for savings.

Chief Executive Doug Tate says the council must consider both what it delivers and how it delivers it.

"Like any business or family facing tough times, we need to think carefully about what we do, service by service. Our job is to meet community needs while making the best use of every dollar."

Staff will report back to council's Operations and Performance committee meeting on Thursday, 22 October. Councillors will then consider service levels alongside debt, user fees, other council income, and the cost of maintaining and replacing assets. This will shape the draft budget for the 2027–2037 long-term plan.

Tate says the council will continue to engage with the community throughout the coming months, addressing key matters such as Whanganui's port revitalisation project and housing.

"Our focus is Facing the Past. Funding our Future," Mayor Andrew says. "That means learning from past decisions, completing or tidying up legacy projects, and making clear, disciplined choices about what comes next.

"The decisions we make now will shape Whanganui for the next decade. With caps on rates rises proposed from 2029, we must plan wisely, protect what our community values most, and build a sustainable future we can all be proud of."

The community will have its say on the draft plan in early 2027, before the council makes final decisions in June 2027.

Local graphic designer creates NZ Post's Christmas stamps

Whanganui graphic designer and illustrator Tim Garman has created six wildlife designs for New Zealand Post's Christmas 2026 postage stamp issue.

Tim's original illustrations link well-known New Zealand birds with Christmas imagery to create four stamp designs and two first day covers, plus a miniature sheet. This marks his sixth issue of stamps and the first time he has created a Christmas set.

Tim says, "It was an especially tricky brief, requiring wildlife and Christmas imagery to sit together. However, designing NZ postage stamps is a privilege, and I enjoyed the challenge. NZ Post's Christmas stamps are the most widely used set of the year and are particularly special to work on."

The stamps were issued on 7 October ready for the Christmas period. Tim adds, "Why not send a card with a Christmas stamp on it, rather than an email this Christmas!"









Recent RCP winners

• Congratulations to Jacinda Noda, winner of RCP's double pass to the Home & Lifestyle show. Thanks to everyone who entered.

• Congratulations to Mandy Palmer, winner of RCP's double pass to the My Damned Kind gig at Frank Bar on Friday 23 October.



EDUCATION & ENROLMENTS 2027

Is your child changing schools?

If your child is changing school or kura for any reason, you need to let the school know they are leaving and which school they will be going to and make sure they are enrolled in their new school. This includes moving to a new primary school, kura, intermediate or secondary school.

Once your child is enrolled at a new school, all their personal records will be sent from the previous one.

How do I enrol my child? What paperwork do I need to provide?

You enrol directly with the school or kura. Contact them to find out their enrolment process and to get their enrolment forms.

Documents for enrolling

Check with the school or kura to see what paperwork they want. They will want things like:

- a copy of your child's birth certificate or passport as proof of age
- a copy of their immunisation certificate (this is in the back of your Well Child book or ask your family doctor for a copy)
- medical information including your doctor's contact details
- any legal documents, for example custody or access agreements the school should know about
- if your child has been enrolled in early childhood education, their National Student Number (NSN), and ECE leaver's record
- contact details – your family phone numbers and address and someone the school or kura can call in an emergency if they can't get hold of you.

Can I enrol my child at any school I like?

Not always.

If the school has an 'enrolment scheme', in other words, is zoned, this gives them the authority to restrict enrolments to families living within the zone. If you want your child to attend a zoned school and you live outside the zone you will have to apply to go into their ballot. You can read more about ballots and zones.

If you live in an area that has a choice of more than one school you can find out what some of your different options might be by reading the section on the different types of schools available.

What if a school refuses to enrol my child?

First of all, contact the school and ask whether they have an enrolment scheme, and if so, get them to explain how you can apply to enrol.

If they don't have an enrolment scheme, they should not turn away any enrolments. If they do, ask the school to put the refusal in writing. You can then contact your nearest Ministry of Education office for advice.

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

Public classes are run at venues throughout the lower North Island, including Whanganui, Palmerston North, Levin, Kapiti, Masterton and Wellington. The next Whanganui class is scheduled for Thursday 29 October or Monday 23 November. This eight-hour class will enable individuals to have the skills and confidence to assist during a medical emergency.

Electrical workers

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

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

As an EWRB training provider, Links in conjunction with Upstage Electrical Training, aspires to deliver as many training opportunities as possible to meet this requirement. The next EWRB Whanganui date is Wednesday 28 October or Wednesday 3 February, and Links recommends booking early to secure a space. Other venues and dates can be found on their website.

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

Would you know what to do if someone is injured?

First Aid Training

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N.B. Businesses are welcome to attend our Public Classes, all NZQA Accredited!

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EDUCATION & ENROLMENTS 2027

Finding the right Early Childhood Education Centre for your child

Whanganui offers a wide range of early childhood education (ECE) services to suit different needs and preferences. Visit www.educationcounts.govt.nz/directories/early-childhood-services to explore available providers. Contact individual kindergartens directly to enquire about enrolment and availability, as spaces are advertised periodically. Some services offer 20 Hours ECE or additional hours, and support children's transition to school.

Arrange a visit, with or without your child, to see the environment, meet teachers and ask about philosophy, hours, ratios and fees.

Check availability

Popular services often have waiting lists. Ask about current spaces, expected wait times, and how the list works (date of application, sibling priority, age preferences, etc.).

Complete enrolment forms

Each service provides its own enrolment form.

National Student Number (NSN)

Once enrolled, the child is allocated an NSN (linked to birth registration). This number stays with them throughout their education journey.

Settling-in and start date

Many centres arrange settling visits or a gradual start. Confirm the first day, what to bring (spare clothes, bag, etc), and any orientation process.

Services set their own minimum hours, enrolment patterns and any optional charges. Always clarify these before signing.

20 Hours ECE (key funding for 3–5 year olds)

The support is available at most licensed teacher-led centres, kindergartens, kōhanga reo and participating home-based services, and covers up to six hours per day, maximum 20 hours per week, with no compulsory fees for those hours.



Eligibility starts on the child's third birthday and ends the day before their sixth birthday or when they start school (whichever comes first).

There is no income test, and eligible children (citizens, residents, and certain visa holders) can access it.

- Parents nominate the hours on the enrolment form. Hours can be split across services as long as the daily/weekly maxima are not exceeded.
- Services may still charge for hours beyond 20, food, consumables, or optional extras (these must be clearly disclosed and voluntary where required).

Additional support: Work and Income (WINZ) Childcare Subsidy and FamilyBoost can further reduce costs for eligible families.

Help your child go to school

* Expect them to go to school every day - don't accept excuses, or let them stay at home unless they are too sick to be at school

* talk to your teenager about why it is important to go to school regularly and encourage them to give themselves a fair chance to achieve. Let them know they are more likely to do well if they go to school each day.

* help them get to school on time by waking them early enough, having a morning routine and making sure their transport is reliable

* get to know the form teacher and dean at the start of the school year – it will make it easier to talk to them if an issue arises

* check often that your child is in fact attending class. If you have any concerns, talk to the school.

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Facing A General Election 2026 – Competence, Integrity and Community Relations Matter.

An abridged version of a sermon delivered last Sunday at Westmere Presbyterian Memorial Church by Rev. Stephan van Os, drawing on Scripture:

TEXT: Daniel 1:20

READINGS:
Daniel 1; Mark 12:13-17



If we are to be faithful to Christ, our politics must be subjected to his rule and authority as much as any other part of our lives.

Yet we must also recognise that, however we choose to exercise our freedom on polling day, we are still accountable to our Lord for how we cast that vote.

I firmly believe Scripture offers guidelines and principles to help us prayerfully consider the kind of people we should have representing us in Parliament.

1. AN ISSUE OF COMPETENCE

The basic question we have got to ask is this: is the person we are proposing to vote for competent to do the job required of them as a Member of Parliament? This seems like such an obvious question, yet you would be surprised how many people fail to ask it. When Nebuchadnezzar appointed and later promoted Daniel and his three friends, he did so on merit and competence alone.

In the 21st century, we collectively determine, by means of the ballot box, who will run the country on our behalf.

They are our servants, just as Daniel and his three friends served Nebuchadnezzar. As the king questioned them, he discovered for himself the quality of their knowledge and insight into policy and government. The same is true when aspiring politicians come to our doors, or we encounter them in the street.

When we vote in November, the key question we need to ask is not so much about the spiritual status of the respective candidates, but whether, in our judgment, they can do the job of MP.

2. AN ISSUE OF INTEGRITY

We need to elect not only competent politicians, but also to consider their integrity. Political figures are called by virtue of their office to practice their craft in the world as it is, not as they would like it to be.

In a day when sleaze and corruption are on every side, and many of our political representatives across the nation seem to look out for number one, I believe this needs to be a fundamental issue for all of us. By and large, we get the politicians that we deserve.

Put yourselves into the shoes of Daniel and his friends. They had tremendous power and influence because of their political positions, yet we need to appreciate that Babylon was not a God-centred empire. The law of God was not the governing law of conduct in any way. Yet Daniel and these men, in particular, continued in high office for about 60 years from their first appointment and served with integrity.

3. AN ISSUE OF COMMUNITY RELATIONS

When we think of men like Daniel and his friends and the high office they shared in Babylon, we are often tempted to view them in isolation from the wider relationships they had to sustain with other political figures and court officials. Yet if we look more closely at the text, we see that throughout their lives they worked within a complex set of relationships.

One key skill in any form of political involvement is the ability to work creatively with others to resolve problems and issues.

This suggests that, in addition to competence and integrity, we should look for elected representatives with a proven ability to work with others for the benefit of the wider community.

Human nature does not change.

The difficulties and challenges of working through complex political matters are much the same, whether you are living in the 6th century BC or in the 21st century AD. In these challenging times, we need just that kind of person.

Our task as we take up our responsibilities to vote in November is not altogether unlike the calling which Jeremiah issued to the exiles in Babylon: "Seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the Lord for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper." [Jeremiah 29:8]

For an unabridged, unedited version of Rev. Stephan van Os' sermon, visit the Westmere Presbyterian Memorial Church Facebook page.

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The best village feature may not be on the brochure

Open a retirement village brochure and the promise is often easy to recognise: attractive homes, landscaped grounds, freedom from maintenance and a calendar of things to do. Some offer pools, gyms, cinemas and other resort-style facilities. For many people, those features are genuinely appealing.

But choosing where to spend the next chapter of life involves something a photograph of a swimming pool cannot capture. Will I know my neighbours? Will people notice if I have had a difficult day? Can I contribute to the community, rather than simply live alongside it? And if my needs change, will support still be within reach?

These questions matter to a growing number of New Zealanders. The Retirement Villages Association says more than 49,000 people now live in retirement villages, while the number of available units has roughly doubled over the past decade.

Research commissioned by Te Ara Ahunga Ora Retirement Commission in 2023 found that people saw practical and social benefits in village living, including security, companionship, freedom from maintaining a home, and access to support and health services. It also found that choosing a village was often an emotional decision, influenced by its atmosphere and whether the place simply felt right.

The lifestyle matters. But "lifestyle" is not only a list of facilities.

For some people, the right fit is a large development with extensive amenities. Others want something more personal: a smaller community where faces quickly become familiar, residents can shape village life, and the people running the village know more than their villa number. Residents in Enliven Central villages enjoy forming personal relationships with the dedicated village coordinators, meaning support is there every step of the way.

That is the thinking behind Enliven Central's nine retirement villages across the lower North Island. They offer independent living in boutique communities, with space for privacy and the opportunity to know the people nearby. Their scale helps create the conditions for neighbours to become a genuine community.

At Kandahar Village in Masterton, resident Trevor has watched that community develop around its recreation hall, village gatherings and the everyday relationships between residents.

"We have a great recreation hall, which enables all the residents to just enjoy the comfort and camaraderie with everybody," he says.

The important word is camaraderie. It cannot be installed like an appliance or added to a list of property features. It grows when people see each other often enough to become known, when someone organises a gathering and neighbours turn up, and when residents can raise an issue and trust that somebody will respond.

"I think the Enliven team support us very well when we have any issues here that need to be sorted out, and that gets dealt with very quickly," Trevor says.

He is equally clear about what he does not need.

"We don't have the likes of a huge swimming pool here like some do, and I think that is great," he says. "I would rather see the money that we put into this through our investment to be spent on smaller things that can happen around the place, rather than those big things that probably half of the people won't use."

That view reflects another significant difference. Enliven Central is part of Presbyterian Support Central, a registered charity and not-for-profit organisation. There are no private shareholders receiving a distribution. **Surplus funds are reinvested into Enliven's charitable purpose, including its villages, rest homes, health support, community services and the people and facilities involved in providing care.**

For Trevor, that changes what his decision supports. "I like the way that Enliven is set up, being a not-for-profit organisation," he says. "I think that the management want to see that things go back into the village as opposed to go back into shareholders' pockets."

Choosing an Enliven Central village therefore has an impact beyond one home or resident. Village living helps support a wider network of services for older people across the lower North Island.

There is a personal benefit too. A question that sits quietly behind many retirement village decisions is what happens if independent living is no longer enough. **Enliven Central village residents receive priority access to Enliven Central homes, where possible and subject to availability.** That connection can offer reassurance that, if needs change, there is an established network of rest home, hospital-level and dementia care behind the village.

A retirement village should make life easier and more enjoyable. A warm home, less maintenance, attractive surroundings and opportunities to socialise all matter. **But the real measure of village life may be what happens after the sales tour is over: whether residents feel known, whether they have a voice, whether neighbours look out for one another, and whether their investment contributes to something they believe in.**

Boutique village living is not about thinking small. It is about recognising that the things which make later life rich are often deeply human: belonging, purpose, reassurance and people who know your name.

Trevor puts it more simply: "I'm very happy here. I'm glad I came here. It's wonderful."

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Students bake cupcakes for SPCA



The Mosston School Student Leaders baked over 200 cupcakes for the SPCA Cupcake Day and raised $372 which was presented to Cyprus from the SPCA.

MASSAGE AWARENESS WEEK

OCTOBER 25-31

The benefits of a massage



Massage therapy is widely available in Whanganui through independent therapists, Thai-style clinics, remedial/sports practitioners, and wellness centres. It is used for pain relief, stress reduction, recovery, and general wellbeing in a city that balances active outdoor lifestyles (river, trails, sports) with the everyday demands of work and family life. Whanganui's growing interest in holistic and self-care options sits alongside conventional healthcare.

Research supports a range of benefits, including:

- Pain relief – Helpful for lower-back pain, neck and shoulder pain, osteoarthritis (especially knee), fibromyalgia, headaches and musculoskeletal pain.
- Muscle tension and recovery – Reduces muscle tightness, improves range of motion, and aids recovery from exercise or injury.
- Stress, anxiety, and mood – Lowers stress hormones (eg, cortisol), reduces anxiety, and can improve mood and sleep quality. Beneficial for general stress and as a complementary approach for some mood-related symptoms.
- Circulation and lymphatic support – Can improve blood flow and support lymphatic drainage, contributing to a sense of lightness and reduced swelling in some cases.

Massage is generally safe when performed by trained therapists. Precautions apply for bleeding disorders, certain cancers, osteoporosis, acute inflammation, or recent surgery – always disclose health conditions.

Why it matters in Whanganui

Whanganui's lifestyle creates clear demand for accessible bodywork:

- Active residents (running, cycling, river activities, sports) seek recovery and injury prevention.
- Desk-based or physically demanding jobs contribute to neck, shoulder and back tension.

Local providers commonly offer Swedish/relaxation, deep tissue/remedial, sports, Thai, pregnancy, hot stone, lymphatic, and specialised techniques (cupping, dry needling in some practices). Some therapists offer home visits.



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Help build a strong community by supporting local business owners

Choosing to shop at locally owned and operated businesses is one of the most effective ways that residents can help to build a stronger local economy, community and character. In a place like Whanganui, where the local shops, cafes, makers and service providers are such an integral part of the town's identity, the effect is very tangible.

When you spend at a local business, a much larger share of that money recirculates locally. Independent retailers and service providers are more likely to hire local staff, buy supplies from other local firms, use local accountants, printers, tradespeople and banks, and spend their own earnings in the same community.

The studies and the analyses done in NZ and elsewhere consistently show that local independents return somewhere in the region of 45–50% (or more) of their revenue back into the local economy, as opposed to the much lower figures (often in the region of 14%) seen with many of the national chains, whose profits, head office and large-scale buying all take the money out of the area.

Chains provide consistency. Local businesses provide character. You've got your independents, your galleries, your bakeries, your gift shops, your eateries, all selling the unique goods that reflect local taste and creating the very particular streetscape that makes a place attractive to both residents and visitors. The arts district in Whanganui, the markets and the independent businesses in general are a huge part of the city's image as a creative, liveable town. If those businesses are doing well, the town centre is alive. If they're not, then you get empty shopfronts and a very poor footfall.

Local owners live in the community. They're the ones who run the sports teams, fund the schools and the various charities, back the events and generally know their customers by name. That's the sort of thing that builds up social capital and community resilience.

In Whanganui, every purchase you make at an independent cafe, bookshop, clothing store, market stall or service business is a small vote for a more resilient local economy and a more distinct city. Together, those choices keep the CBD of the river city alive, keep people employed right here, and maintain the character of the place.



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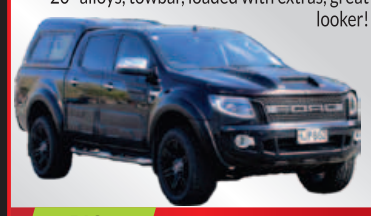
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Ford Thunderbird Convention including a park-up this weekend



Tony and his Thunderbird on the left and Jason and his on the right.

The Ford Thunderbird Owners Club of New Zealand is having its annual Convention in Whanganui over Labour Weekend. This is the Club's 33rd Convention. The Park Up will be at Pakaitore on the Saturday, 24 October from 9am to 12 noon.

If you can't remember what a Thunderbird looks like, think of the movie *Grease* or listen to the Beach Boys song "Fun, Fun Fun" and the line "And she'll have fun, fun, fun till her daddy takes the T-bird away."

Jason Pine is a dedicated Thunderbird owner and he explains, "Thunderbirds first came out in 1955 called 'Baby Birds', followed by 'Square Birds' from 1958 to '60, 'Bullet Birds' from 1961 to '63 and 'Flair Birds' from 1964. After that they were known as 'Modern Birds'." They finally stopped production in 2005/6.

Another Thunderbird owner, Tony Culver, adds, "They were very popular, so much so that they outsold their competitor, the Corvette, by 20 to 1." The Corvette had switched to fibreglass, a move which proved anathema to American car owners. By contrast, Thunderbirds kept their huge amount of chrome.

Both Jason and Tony say the appeal of Thunderbirds is their shape, design and quirky features. Tony explains, "This was the jet age and so the dashboard was full of features covered in chrome, and the round dash has separate circle shapes. The steering wheel can be moved across to suit your position."

As well, they had power seats, air conditioning, electric windows well before their time, and of course the engine has that unmistakable roar.

Members will spend much of the weekend travelling to Bushy Park, having a "Mystery Cruise" based "around food", a few shed visits, and a visit to New Zealand Glassworks.

On the Saturday night, they will have an awards dinner where they will celebrate their theme – "Legends of Music", chosen to honour Whanganui's reputation as an arts centre. Watch out for Elvis, Freddy Mercury, Tina Turner, Kiss and even Boy George lookalikes

But the highlight for the public will be the Park Up display in Pakaitore from 9am to 12 noon on Saturday 24 October. There will be close to 40 Thunderbirds to drool over. Jason explains that there would be 100 Thunderbirds in the club with some owning multiples, including a member in New Plymouth who has seven. If you are tempted, Jason adds, they cost from $60,000 to $100,000 in New Zealand. The good news is that there are plenty of spare parts.

The public will be asked to vote for their favourite, with the winning owner receiving a Katie Brown Glass Trophy.

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Mike De Har started an airport shuttle service after he retired from a lifetime of working on road maintenance. He saw a possible gap in the market and did a survey which indicated people wanted a good, reliable service to and from the airport.

With increasing numbers of people flying in and out of Whanganui, with Air Chathams frequently using a larger plane, Mike predicted that the market was likely to grow. So he bought a eight-seater van and dropped off his business cards around town. On the back of the card, he has divided the city into five zones with quoted prices for one to three people. Extra passengers cost only $5 more, and if you are a gold card holder, you will get a 10% discount.

He also offers to take all luggage free, which recently included two child seats, which a mother had to bring with her. If two or more passengers are going to the same area in Whanganui, he will split the cost between them.

Another incentive is a complimentary coffee or tea every fifth ride, at the Airport café.

For those leaving Whanganui, it is easy to book ahead either by text, a phone call or online. He says, "I even had a phone call from a traveller from Brisbane wanting to be picked up when she arrived." He has also taken people to Palmerston North Airport as well as to Wellington.

The van is spacious and tidy, with plenty of room for luggage.

I am starting to get repeat bookings from frequent flyers, especially business people, doctors and teachers."

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Jason Rees, a plumber with 32 years' experience, has just embarked on operating his own one-man business, JR Plumbing, and looks forward to putting his years of experience to work at your place: maintenance, small jobs, block drains, cylinders, water softeners, bathroom refits, kitchen plumbing, hot water heat pumps. Basically, if it needs fixing or installing, he's your man.

He knows the plumbing trade. Jason comes from an engineering family, and as a young man, a mate's dad asked him to come and help out for a few days. That man was Graham James.

The conversation, according to Jason, went something like this: "Graham asked, 'What are you doing tomorrow?' I replied, 'Not much'. He goes, 'You want to come give me a hand?' Eight years later, I was still with him."

Fast forward to 2026, having worked for other plumbing businesses since he was 18, another plumber mate, Derek Alderton, who was moving to Australia, offered Jason his business. Jason, who was working for Thompson's Plumbing at the time, took time to think about it, because after all, Jed Thompson is a damn good bloke. The opportunity was too good for Jason to pass up, and Jed gave Jason his blessing.

It's Jason's first foray into running his own business, and with his years of experience as a fully qualified plumber, this one-man machine knows his stuff.

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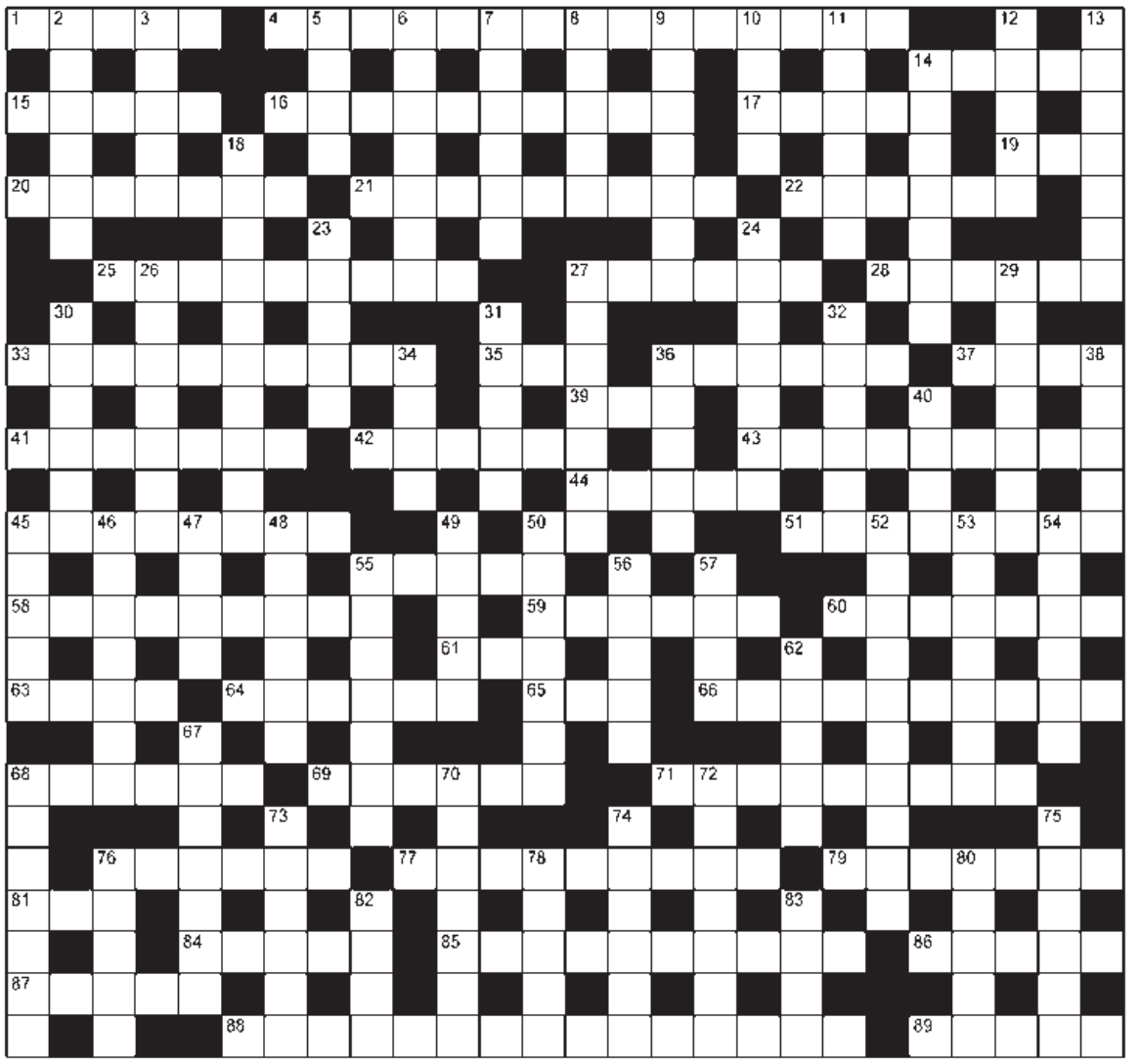
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Jumbo crossword

ACROSS
1 Swamp (5)
4 Completely calm, self-possessed (4,2,1,8)
14 S American country (5)
15 Small wood (5)
16 Irish sprite (10)
17 Bid (5)
19 Moose (3)
20 Germ (7)
21 Statue (9)
22 Spring-flowering corm (6)
25 Academic (9)
27 Preacher's platform (6)
28 Scarcity (6)
33 Venture (10)
35 Make public (3)
36 Winged child (6)
37 Black marketeer (4)
39 Animal's coat (3)
41 Sharp raceway bend (7)
42 Rich, elaborate cake (6)
43 Moving ahead (9)
44 Soldier's decoration (5)
45 Legal representative (8)
50 Myself (2)
51 Printing character style (8)
55 Set into surface (5)
58 Rebuke formally (9)
59 Paper fastener (6)
60 Perform surgery (7)
61 Small measure of spirits (3)
63 Candle cord (4)
64 Prosperity (6)
65 Pixie (3)
66 Retraction (10)
68 Sea animal (6)
69 Malicious or spitefully critical (6)
71 Spoke haltingly (9)
76 Lampoon (4-2)
77 Doggedly persistent (9)
79 Presaging ill-fortune (7)
81 Gratuity (3)
84 Provide food (5)
85 Tepid claim (anag) (10)
86 Characteristic (5)
87 Creepy (5)
88 Friendly understanding between states (7,8)
89 Air holes (5)

DOWN
2 Frightened (6)
3 Chop off (5)
5 Bullocks (4)
6 Songlike (7)
7 In poor health (6)
8 Fashion by hand (5)
9 Keep in check (7)
10 Debatable (4)
11 Exertion (6)
12 Ceramic squares (5)
13 Slightly hungry (7)
14 Thin dry biscuit (7)
18 Osmosis (10)
23 Craze (5)
24 Open-minded (7)
26 Farewell expression (7)
27 Scent (7)
29 Copy (7)
30 Toddler (6)
31 Doomed (5)
32 Detailed critical inspection (6)
34 Cheese type (4)
36 Unrefined (5)
38 Lacking clarity (5)
40 Gambler's stake (4)
45 Direction indicator (5)
46 True-to-type (7)
47 Sudden short attack (4)
48 Tooth coating (6)
49 Slow-moving animal (5)
50 Enigma (7)
52 Fantastic but vain hopes (4,6)
53 Pardoned (7)
54 Short sleep (6)
55 Halcyon (7)
56 Social blunder (5)
57 Talon (4)
62 Postage sticker (5)
67 Incinerator (7)
68 Recorded on paper (7)
70 Pharmacist (7)
72 Huge destructive wave (7)
73 Sheep meat (6)
74 Neater (6)
75 Daintily odd (6)
76 Reject with contempt (5)
78 Savoury meat jelly (5)
80 Health worker (5)
82 Liberate (4)
83 Sense (4)



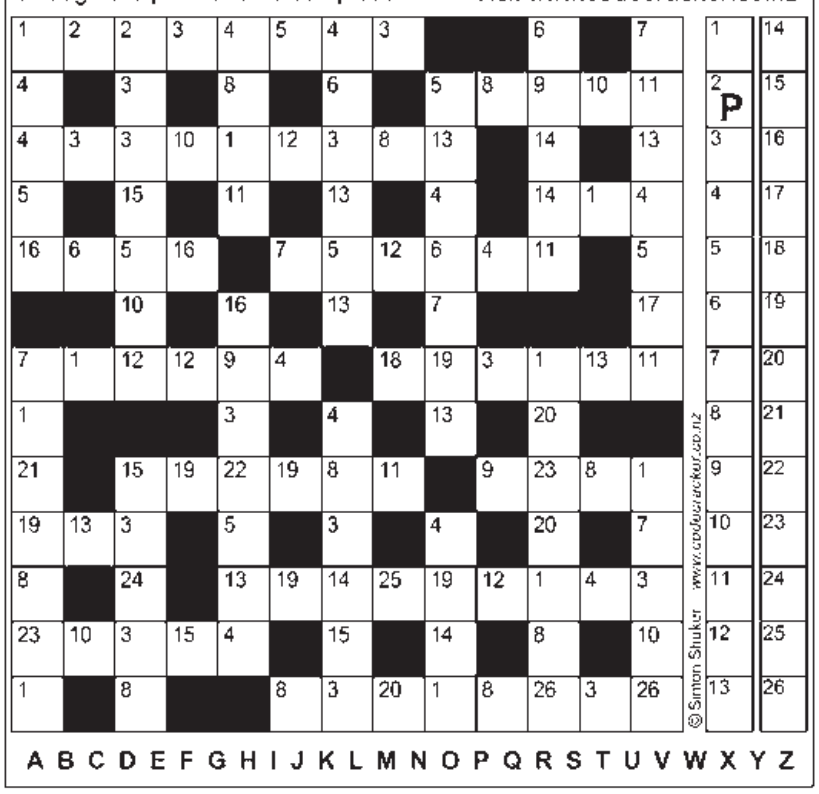
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SIMON SHUKER'S CODE-CRACKER Extra 930

EACH number in our Code-Cracker grid represents a different letter of the alphabet. For example, today 2 represents P, so fill in P every time the figure 2 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

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

HARD

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

Previous solution

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

Previous solution

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

Previous crossword solution

ACROSS: 1 Lance, 4 Well-earned rest, 11 Corns, 14 Probe, 15 Demonstrate, 16 Turncoat, 19 Apparel, 20 Terms, 21 Uncertain, 24 Pseudonym, 26 Gutter, 27 Galley, 31 Swabs, 32 Outcasts, 34 Watertight, 38 Albumen, 39 Devour, 40 Origin, 41 Kiss, 42 Pending, 45 Protection, 50 Fatigue, 54 Ours, 55 Employ, 56 Genial, 57 Fans out, 60 Fraudulent, 61 Gendarme, 62 Alien, 65 Tooted, 66 Errand, 67 Apprehend, 72 Stalemate, 73 Atlas, 74 Tigress, 79 Dressing, 80 Camaraderie, 81 Queue, 82 Naked, 83 Down in the dumps, 84 Leads.
DOWN: 2 Abrupt, 3 Cobra, 5 Eyes, 6 Loosely, 7 Assume, 8 Norm, 9 Detonate, 10 Taunts, 11 Confidante, 12 Room, 13 Satisfy, 17 Debut, 18 Vegetarian, 22 Bogus, 23 Flagging, 25 Subdued, 26 Gastric, 28 Twelve, 29 Escort, 30 Belief, 33 Cheer, 35 Taste, 36 Sewn, 37 Gobi, 42 Proof, 43 Narrator, 44 Gamble, 45 Palindrome, 46 Onyx, 47 Engaged, 48 Tenant, 49 Osaka, 51 Away, 52 Insulin, 53 Unused, 58 Advertised, 59 Smart, 63 Pastrami, 64 Choir, 65 Tread on, 68 Plateau, 69 Cloned, 70 At ease, 71 Issued, 75 Rouge, 76 Desk, 77 Fast, 78 Limp.

5x5

	H		M	
C		N		E
	B		D	
R		D		R
	T		M	

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	C	O	F	F
L	A	P	E	L
A	R	E	N	A
B	A	R	D	S
S	T	A	S	H

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

WHAT'S ON IN THE COMMUNITY

AGM Whanganui Creative Space
10th November 2026, 6pm, 76a Guyton Street, Level 2. All welcome.

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.

'Christmas at the Opera'
Join Whanganui's choirs and musicians for an unforgettable evening of festive music at the Royal Whanganui Opera House on Saturday 12 December, 7pm (60 mins run time). Tickets available from the RWOH Box Office Monday to Friday 10am–1.30pm, 06-349-0511, or online from www.whanganuivenues.co.nz

Community Education Whanganui
A fresh Term 4 is landing at Community Education Whanganui – and the class list is out now. Dive into woodwork, songwriting, landscape painting, yoga, music, permaculture, pottery and plenty more. Whether you want to make, move, grow, or create, there's a course waiting for you this term. Enrol online: www.communityeducation.nz or phone 3454717, 10-3pm weekdays.

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

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

Healing Rooms
All welcome. Prayer Ministry Wednesday 1.30-4pm – Upper lounge @ Christ Church Community Centre, 243 Wicksteed Street, Whanganui. Free of charge. For more information or to book an appointment, phone Steve (06) 344-5955.

Pay Equity Picnic
Monday 26 October, 11am. Top of Majestic Square. Join Angela Robert, Labour Candidate in celebrating this Labour Day. Let's celebrate solidarity and community. Wear purple, bring a rug and snacks as we highlight the essential workers, caregivers and marginalised groups still fighting for compensation. All welcome.

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 have a look. Our usual club sessions at Jubilee Stadium are Sunday 3.30pm–5.30pm, Wednesday 9am–11am, Thursday 6pm–8pm. To have a go – beginners must register with Julie 021 232 9029 or email rivercitypickleballnz@gmail.com

Twelve Dreams of the River
A river-themed concert by acclaimed NZ-Scottish musician Bob McNeill on 7 November at Whanganui Repertory Theatre. "Endearing, and at times haunting" NZ Musician. "One of the great folk songwriters of the last two decades". www.bobmcneill.net and Eventfinda.

Wanganui Country Music Club Inc
Invites you to join us this coming Sunday for our afternoon concert. We meet at Highland Pipe Band Hall (1E Bell St) 1pm–4.30pm. Door entry: Members $5, Non-members $6. Raffles available, afternoon tea provided. See you there. For further information contact Terri 021-420-069.

Whanganui Opera Week – 3rd to 17th January
Be part of the celebrations and book front row seats at one of our 6 public events to see the next generation of New Zealand's aspiring, young opera stars. Call the Royal Whanganui Opera House on 06-349-0511 (10am–1.30pm) or visit www.whanganuivenues.co.nz to purchase your tickets.

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.

COMMUNITY

Lonely bouquets left around city

Imagine the RCP editor's surprise at discovering a bouquet at the building's entrance last week. Beyond the flowers speaking to us with scent and colour, an attached note included a poem, an introduction, *"I am a Lonely Bouquet!"*, and an invitation to contact the Whanganui Floral Art Society to tell them where the flowers had been found. No secret admirer, just a kind gesture from a group that wants to add kindness and colour to people's lives.

Whanganui Floral Art Society's Lonely Bouquet initiative has seen over 100 bouquets delivered throughout Whanganui, Marton, Fordell and Waverley for people to discover.

Members gather the flowers from their gardens and lovingly prepare them on-site at the society's meeting place, Matheson Hall, ready for delivery.

The response to the floral finds has been overwhelmingly positive. Here's just a sample:

I found one of your bouquets at Virginia Lake on Wednesday. It was exactly what I needed to brighten my day.

What a beautiful surprise to find a floral bouquet on my back doorstep…in Marton. It just about made me cry.

Club President Val Bartrum says, "As a club, we do it every year in October, which is our birthday month. Instead of having a birthday gift for us, we will give a birthday gift to the community."

The Whanganui Floral Art Society meets on the first Tuesday of the month at 6pm at Matheson Street Church Hall. You don't need to be a member to visit. Val says, "You can just come along; we hope that you'll like it and join."

The society has over 40 members, and the annual fee is $35.



Contact Val for more information: bartrum@xtra.co.nz

Need help attaching the nets to your recycling bins?



The nets will help stop your recycling blowing down the street.

Jess Feist, manager at the Whanganui Resource and Recovery Centre, 81 Maria Place, says her team can help.

"People can get crates drilled and nets attached at the centre if you bring them in and drive around the back where the staff can help you.

"And if all else fails, some may not be able to get into town; they can ring Whanganui District Council, and someone will swing by and drill their crates at the kerbside on the day of their recycling collection."



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Recent Bereavements

Sadly passed away recently...

Angela Louise CORLISS
on 26 September.

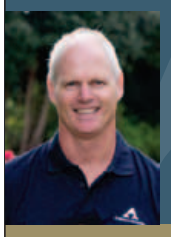
Ngaire Frances Jill (Jill) GAY
on 19 October, aged 92 years.

James Patrick O'LEARY
on 10 October, aged 54 years.

Graeme Keith STAITE
on 13 October, aged 73 years.

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Animal Justice Party uses the election spotlight to find animals homes

"The Animal Justice Party Aotearoa New Zealand is using election advertising to help rescued animals find homes and highlight the community organisations caring for them," says the AJP Whanganui candidate Sandra Kyle.

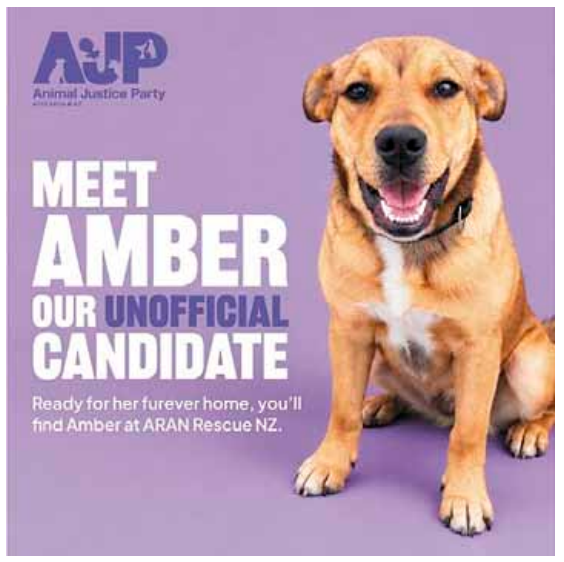
The campaign uses part of AJP's election advertising allocation, public funding allocated by the Electoral Commission to eligible political parties for election advertising. Among its stars are Amber, a young Huntaway waiting for her chance at a loving home here in Whanganui.

"We're using our advertising to explain what we stand for and do something practical to help," says AJP Co-Leader Danette Wereta. "Rescues are an important part of our communities, providing shelter, veterinary care and a fresh start for animals who have nowhere else to go.

"They also need government to address the reasons animals end up needing rescue in the first place."

The rehoming campaign also features Buddy, a lamb needing a safe home with other sheep; June, a dog discovering life after spending her first year confined to a laundry; Bobby, a rabbit rescued from an overcrowded hutch; and Roo, a rescued dairy calf seeking a home alongside Kanga and Pooh.

"We are happy to use our campaign advertising funds to help animals – our 'unofficial candidates' – find homes," says Kyle.



"The AJP is the only party here for all animals. We want to change the status quo that leaves them suffering. We have a comprehensive list of policies including accessible veterinary care, support for desexing, reform of pounds and shelters, and an independent Commissioner for Animals.

"If you can open your heart and home to beautiful Amber, please reach out to ARAN Animal Rescue NZ – aran.rescue.nz@gmail.com.

"I really hope beautiful Amber will find her 'furever' home."

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MAGICAL MARCH MYSTERY TOUR
20 - 24 March 2027 $2895pp Twin Share
You're off to great places, today is your day. Your coach is waiting, so get on your way! - Dr Seuss If you love exploring our beautiful country, discovering hidden gems, soaking in breathtaking scenery, and enjoying great company, and unravelling cryptic clues, all while staying in top-class accommodations, then our Magical March Mystery Tour is the perfect adventure for you!

Sunset Boulevard 10-11 April 2027
$620pp twin share
Join us for this overnight to Wellington to watch as WITCH Music Theatre presents celebrated actress Keala Settle in Andrew Lloyd Webber's stirring "masterpiece" SUNSET BOULEVARD in a new production created especially for the grand reopening of Te Whare Whakarauika Wellington Town Hall.



Aotea-Great Barrier Island
18 - 23 April 2027 $4250.00 Twin share
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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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TUNE into City Magic 106.9FM from this Sunday. Saturday's 9am gardening, segments on negotiation, Sports, Radio Countdowns. Sunday's 8am children's requests, 9am Woman to Woman, 12pm Dick Clark. Sunday's 5pm feature artist. American Top 40s, community events, weeknights, 9.15am Wednesdays and Fridays – drama, music documentaries. Feedback 021-216-0886. Broadcasting from Durie Hill.

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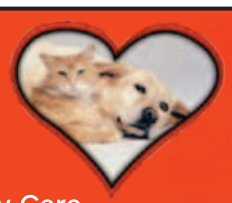
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SPORTS NEWS

Junior cricket off and running across the region

Junior cricket is back for summer, with new teams, new towns and plenty of first-timers picking up a bat across the Whanganui region.

Year 5/6 and Year 7/8 hardball got under way on Friday and Saturday, and on Sunday some of our Whanganui pathways and Friday night Legends girls played for Mangorei Cricket Club against Wellington invitational sides in a T20 day at Springvale Park.

Kiwi Cricket, for our youngest players, was not so lucky. Thursday night's Secondary T16 and Friday night's Kiwi Cricket festival were both cancelled, with grounds affected by torrential rain on Wednesday and Thursday nights. Round 1 of Kiwi Cricket and Round 2 of Secondary T16 kick off this week.

The largest single growth in cricket is in Ruapehu. More than 40 children have signed up with Ruapehu Cricket Club across two new programmes. Smash Play on Mondays has 28 young players, including nine girls, while Hardball on Tuesdays caters for Years 5 to 8. Further south, Taihape Area School is back in Saturday junior cricket for the first time in years.



Four Whanganui girls included in the Mangorei team.

Across Term 4, Cricket Whanganui is running Kiwi Cricket, Year 5/6 Hardball, Year 7/8 Performance and Development, and Secondary T16 programmes. Community Cricket Development Manager Debu Banik leads delivery across schools and clubs, with pathway and representative teams from Under 11 to Under 17 being named this week. Marton Saracens are also hosting Kiwi Cricket and Girls Smash Cricket.

Cricket Whanganui General Manager Peter Bowman was excited for the opportunities the season would present for players on the pathway.

"With the Whanganui Women back in the Shrimpton, more kids signing up in Ruapehu, and Taihape back on a Saturday, it's a massive year. Things are really looking up in the region."

It's not too late to get involved. Registrations are open on PlayHQ, and clubs and schools are always looking for parents to help coach and manage teams. Get in touch with us for links to all junior programmes. Contact Debu at debu@cricketwhanganui.co.nz or visit cricketwhanganui.co.nz

Nominate a sporting great



Family members of John Patrick Phillips and Simon Charles Dickie at the induction ceremony in March 2026. Photo credit: Mark Brimblecombe

Nominations for the Whanganui Sports Hall of Fame open on Monday. The Whanganui Sports Hall of Fame celebrates the contributions of local sportspeople who have represented New Zealand, as well as supporters and officials who, through their involvement in sport, have made a significant impact on our sporting heritage.

Nominations are open from Monday 19 October to Friday 27 November. A judging panel will decide on winners with two inductees formally recognised in a ceremony March 2027.

To qualify for nomination, candidates must be from the Whanganui district either by birth or having moved here, have represented New Zealand as an athlete and be retired from competition for 5 years, and/or have made a positive contribution to sport in the district.

Chair of the judges panel, Keith Smith, says, "once again we have the opportunity to recognise those in our community who have contributed to our wonderful sporting history, which is an important facet of who we are in Whanganui."

Sport Whanganui and the Whanganui District Council Mayor's Office invite nominations from anyone wanting to highlight or celebrate a sporting great. Nominations generally come from a sports club or an individual who is associated with the nominee. As well as any new nominations received, all previous nominations not yet inducted are eligible for consideration.

The Sports Hall of Fame was launched in 2008 with 36 sportspeople inducted to date. John Brian Phillips and Simon Charles Dickie were inducted earlier in 2026 for their respective achievements in rugby and rowing.

From Monday 19 October nomination forms can be downloaded from sportwhanganui.co.nz or a hard copy picked up from the Sport Whanganui office at Springvale Park. A list of all inductees is available on the Whanganui District Council website at whanganui.govt.nz/Community-and-Culture/Sports-Hall-of-Fame.

Pigeon racing results

Another tough one for our birds this week. The birds raced an average of 464km from Whangarei to Whanganui against a stiff southerly.

Brad Fairweather's bird took the honours with a speed of 1063.80m/m or 63.82km/hr. Hot on his heels in second place was Alois Verstraeten 1063.27m/m or 63.79km/hr. In third place Shane Guddop 1054.10m/m or 63.24km/hr. Then Benedick Galanida 1043.79 m/m or 62.62km/hr, Heather Verstraeten 1037.42m/m or 62.24km/hr, Jim Pullins 1028.76m/m or 61.72km/hr, Don Lacy 1018.92m/m or 61.13km/hr and Dave Lacy 1014.33m/m or 60.85km/hr.

Our South Teams had a rest last week but cross the strait this week to race from Clarence (near Kaikoura). Our North Teams have an easier fly from Taumuranui.

Wanganui Croquet Club results



Olly's Shield Winner Jenny Forrest on the right and President Judith Francis.

Wanganui Croquet Club – Olly's Shield Competition – 13 & 14 October 2026

This club competition was a mixed gender singles handicap advantage play competition with handicaps ranging from 2 to 14. Eighteen members took part playing initial rounds in three round robin groups of six.

During the round robin rounds the handicap system levelled out the competition with several low handicap players suffering at the hands of a higher handicap player. At the end of the round robin rounds, Group A had an outright top player – Jenny Forrest on five wins from five games. Group B had two players on four wins with Jill Bray finishing top on countback. Group C had three players on three wins, with Pam Badcock finishing on top on countback.

A three-way final was played on Wednesday 14 October. Following a draw to see who would contest the first game of the finals, Jenny Forrest and Pam Badcock played a very tight game with Jenny winning. Following a second draw, Jenny Forrest played Jill Bray and again a very tight game saw Jenny winning. Having beaten both of the other two opponents, Jenny was declared the winner 2026.


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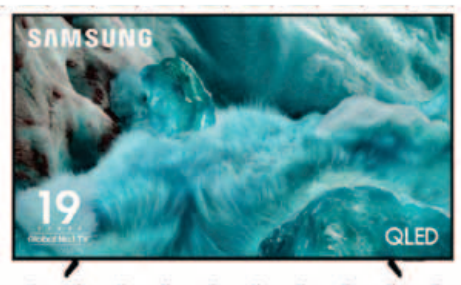
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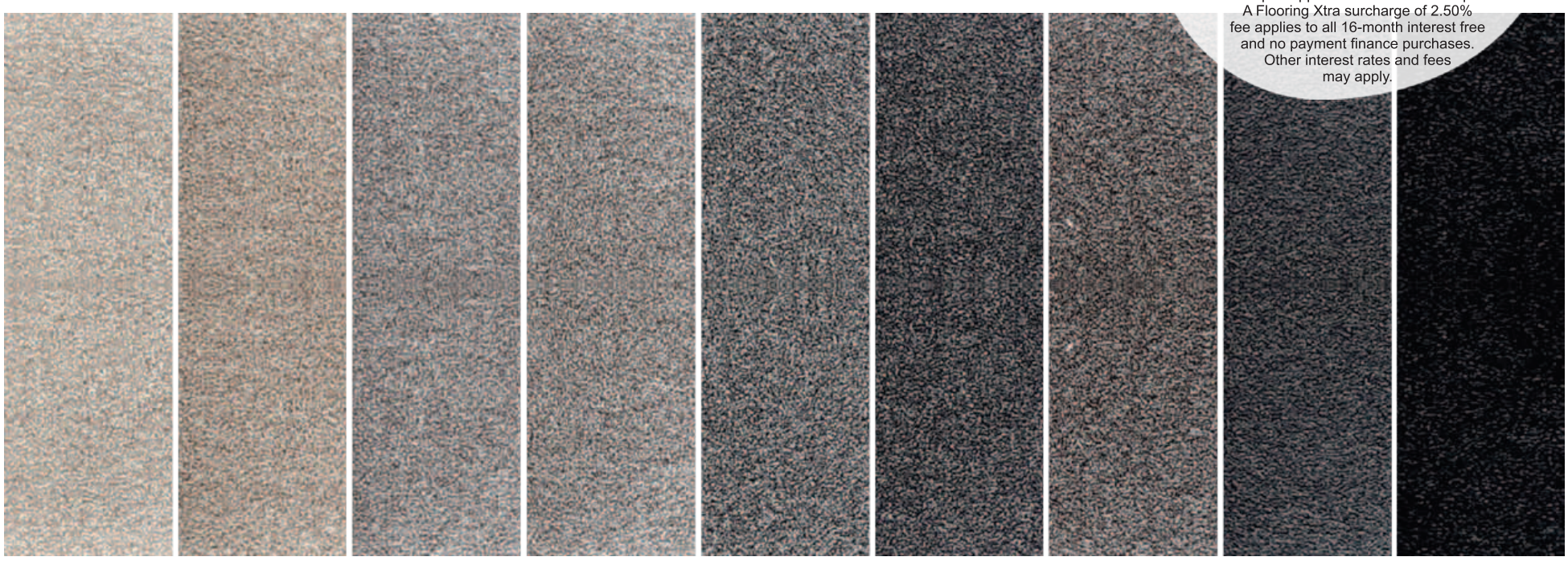
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