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Volume 42, Number 42
October 29, 2026

Barney's personal golf challenge to raise funds for Cancer Society after throat cancer diagnosis

BY LOUISE FOLLETT

Barney Shiels-Reddin was diagnosed with stage 4 inoperable throat cancer just before Christmas in 2021; he's grateful to still be here, for the support of the Cancer Society and the health system and wants to give back. So he's doing a golf fundraising campaign called "You Can't Kill Weeds" to raise funds for the Cancer Society.

Barney's a shadow of the man he used to be, going from a pre-cancer weight of 95kg down to the 60kg range, but he reckons he's up for playing four golf courses back-to-back in one day for a good cause, starting on 22 December.

He's used to pushing through the hard stuff. From the diagnosis in December 2021 to March 2022, he endured 35 doses of radiation and three bags of chemotherapy.

Playing four 18-hole rounds back-to-back, 72 holes in one day, is a major endurance challenge: prolonged walking, hundreds of repetitive full-body swings, not to mention the mental focus needed. Then there's, to borrow and bastardise a classic Springsteen hit, "Playing in the Dark". But that darkness is nothing compared to feeling mortality's breath on the back of your neck.

The journey to the "You Can't Kill Weeds" campaign began with the fateful trip to the doctor: "There was a lump on my neck, which my GP said, 'Let's just go and get an ultrasound done.' So I went to Pacific Radiology, and the lovely English lady scanned me, then suddenly went quiet when she got to the back of my neck, and I thought, well, that's not good.

"I got a phone call within an hour. I was booked into the ENT department in Lower Hutt. Within three days I had a biopsy, and I was diagnosed with stage 4 inoperable cancer, with a lump. When my wife asked why it was inoperable, they said it was too close to his voice box, and she went, 'Every cloud'. You've gotta have gallows humour. Dark humour helps people cope in terrifying or hopeless situations."

In Barney's case, there is hope now; his tests have been clear for almost five years, although he says, "Every time I go and get bloods I'm thinking, 'Is this the time that I'm going to get the call with bad news.'" He's looking forward to 'ringing the bell' to announce he is cancer-free in a few months, once he reaches five years.

Because of the cancer, Barney has had to learn to eat again, living on soft, easy-to-eat food like dumplings and supplementing with Ensure, an easy-to-drink, nutrient-dense product.

With Barney's health challenges, it was time to slow down. Having developed a love for Whanganui over the years and visiting regularly, Barney, his wife and young son decided to move here this winter.

Barney works as a PA for Rachel Grey, a real estate agent at Property Brokers who has achieved national success. He loves the pace of the work. His wife, Kate, is Property Manager at Harcourts, and their son is settled at St Mary's.

They love the community here and have already connected with many in the art scene through regular visits.

He has been so busy here that he's only managed two golf games. Barney has recently played a round at the Rangitikei Club, saying, "Because I can't play that in the dark without seeing it, can I." Rangitikei is his first course of four; he'll be teeing off before the sun rises, then, after completing 18 holes, it's a dash back to Whanganui's River City Golf to complete two rounds of 9 holes, before heading off to Castlecliff to play 18 holes, then last of all, Belmont Golf Course, arguably the toughest.

How long does it take to play a quadruple 18-hole golf challenge? Estimates suggest between 16 and 20 hours. Barney will start in the dark and may hit his last shot in the dark, too.

That's ok – he's been through darker times when he couldn't count on the sun rising. He's had a heart attack, ruptured appendix and then the cancer, and says, "The health system is brilliant, and the support that the Cancer Society gives you is incredible. They were always there, always asking, 'Is there anything we can do? Are you okay?'

"I just want to give back."

To support Barney's "You Can't Kill Weeds" campaign, go to: https://longestday.org.nz/you-cant-kill-weeds-iv



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Designer Karen Walker to present Bill Milbank Memorial Lecture



Bill Milbank outside the Sarjeant Gallery, 1994.

Te Whare o Rehua Sarjeant Gallery is delighted to announce Karen Walker, one of Aotearoa New Zealand's most influential and internationally recognised designers, will present the 2026 Bill Milbank Memorial Lecture at the Sarjeant Gallery on 4 November.

Renowned for her creativity, innovation, and entrepreneurial vision, Karen Walker has inspired audiences worldwide while championing New Zealand design.

Acclaimed internationally celebrated fashion designer and cultural advocate Karen Walker is recognised for her distinctive aesthetic and entrepreneurial vision. Her work spans fashion, jewellery, eyewear, publishing and advocacy, and includes cross-disciplinary collaborations with many high-profile brands including Resene, Disney, Sephora and Uniqlo.

The annual Bill Milbank Memorial Lecture honours the legacy of former Te Whare o Rehua Sarjeant Gallery Director, Bill Milbank QSO (1948–2023) whose wide-ranging interests are the source of inspiration for this programme. Milbank's deep commitment to the arts, education and civic life helped shape Whanganui's cultural landscape and his impact was felt nationally.

Sarjeant Gallery director Andrew Clifford said Walker's appointment continues the lecture's tradition of bringing exceptional thinkers and practitioners to Whanganui. "Walker is one of New Zealand's most significant creative leaders. Through her remarkable career she has demonstrated how imagination, resilience and originality can transcend national boundaries and connect with audiences around the world."

Alongside her achievements in fashion, Walker has been an outspoken supporter of New Zealand creativity and a champion of emerging talent, helping to elevate the profile of local design on an international stage.

Walker says, "It's a privilege to be part of a lecture series that celebrates the power of ideas and the importance of creativity in shaping our communities. Bill Milbank was a visionary creative and curator, and I'm proud to have been invited to deliver the 2026 lecture.

"I look forward to sharing some of my reflections with Whanganui and visiting one of New Zealand's renowned creative centres."

Drawing on her experiences as a designer, business leader and creative collaborator, Walker will offer audiences her perspective on the opportunities and challenges facing contemporary creative practice.

Since its inception in 2024, the Bill Milbank Memorial Lecture has provided a platform for meaningful discussion and has become an anticipated event in the gallery's annual calendar.

Proudly supported by Murray and Denise Lazelle.

Following the seated lecture, guests are invited to mingle and enjoy a complimentary glass of wine and nibbles. A cash bar will also be available for additional refreshments.

Wednesday 4 November
5pm doors open, 5.30pm lecture.

Tickets: $50, 10% discount for Friends of the Sarjeant Gallery

Tickets: at the Sarjeant Gallery or online at: https://shop.sarjeant.org.nz/collections/events

Venue: Te Whare o Rehua Sarjeant Gallery, 4 Pukenamu Drive, Whanganui

RCP Bouquet for Ken Chernoff



Penny Little and Ken Chernoff with his beautiful bouquet from the Flower Room; some members of The Other Orchestra are playing in the background.

RCP received a Bouquet of the Week request from Penny Little, who said, "I would like to nominate Ken Chernoff for the flower bouquet.

"My son Jacob attends the Whanganui Musicians Club every Thursday morning. I witnessed with amazement one day as a man in a wheelchair was positioned in front of the drums. Ken picked up the drumstick and tapped a beat. The gentleman smiled a huge smile and, with his steady hand, repeated the beat. This continued, and the joy this gave the man and Ken was so incredibly priceless.

"Ken has the most incredible patience and truly understands the joy music brings to everyone. He encourages ALL people to 'give it a go'. Our community is so lucky to have someone who volunteers his time to teaching those who are disadvantaged the love of music."

RCP surprised Ken during The Other Orchestra session last Thursday with a beautiful bouquet Nichola and her team at the Flower Room created.

He was delighted, as were The Other Orchestra members.

Ken loves the group's energy and the relationships they've forged.

Ken loves their commitment, and one in particular: Zoë Keith. "She's been here from day one. And so we've been playing, like, for, you know, 10 years together every week. It's amazing."

Thursday music for the intellectually challenged is one of Creative Space Trust's programmes making art accessible to everyone.

MusicHelps, a charity that supports projects where music makes a tangible difference, has funded the weekly events for the last ten years, and this year Whanganui District Council's Creative Communities is providing some funding, too.

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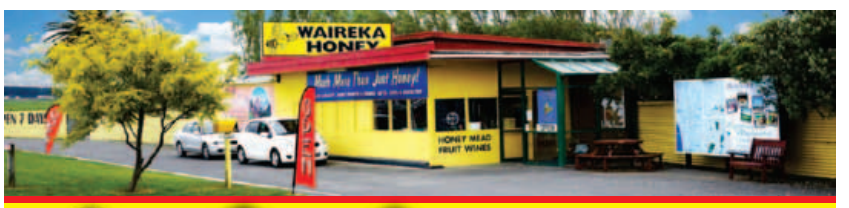

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Awards given to Friends of the Opera House

The Friends of the Opera House recently held their 37th Annual General Meeting in the comfortable surroundings of the Hatrick Room in the Brickhouse Restaurant. President Margaret Johnson welcomed a large number of guests who enjoyed the camaraderie of like-minded folk keen to support our beautiful theatre.

It was a pleasure to present awards to the following recipients at the AGM:

Life Membership 2026: Ron Seconi

Volunteer of the Year Award: Jackie Boot

Twenty-year continuous service certificate and badge: Eddie Frith

Three prizes drawn for those in attendance went to Ian Pearson, Chris Andrews and Jackie Boot.

Committee:

Margaret Johnson (President), Debbie Adam (Vice President/Secretary), Brian Johnson (Treasurer), Hilary Cowan, Ron Seconi, Brian Rattray, Scott Taylor-Moore, Linda Hart and Fergus Reid.

These are just some of the dedicated volunteers who are an asset to the Opera House. Many fabulous volunteers donate a lot of personal time to the theatre, meeting, greeting and engaging with our patrons at shows, and ensuring that they have a wonderful "live theatre experience". It is a pleasure seeing patrons leaving the theatre with broad smiles and at the same time expressing their appreciation for the work of the volunteers.



Royal Whanganui Opera House.

The Friends of the Opera House is a very long-term organisation that was formed in 1989, and members and volunteers have a passion for retaining the 126-year-old Victorian theatre as a working community theatre in Whanganui. For over three decades, volunteers have put many hours into maintaining and improving this icon that sits proudly on the landscape of this city. To enable the volunteers to continue their work within the Opera House, the financial support of members is truly valuable. All subscriptions and donations enable the volunteers to continue their work at the theatre, ensuring there are pleasant comfortable surroundings for our patrons. In the current economic climate, The Friends of the Opera House Committee continues to focus on having the ability to offer ice creams and other sweet treats at reasonable prices pre-show and during interval, so that families can enjoy a special treat to complete their "live theatre experience".

The Friends of the Opera House Committee also take great delight in supporting all forms of performance and entertainment by way of sponsorship. It is truly a pleasure to assist up-and-coming young entertainers prepare for a future in performing arts.

If you are keen to donate to a wonderful Whanganui community asset, either as a financial member of The Friends of the Opera House ($20 per person per annum), or as a volunteer within the theatre, please contact President Margaret Johnson on 0274-509-456, or email bejae9@gmail.com for further details.

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Whanganui comes together so generously for the 2026 Foodbank Drive

The Rotary Club of Whanganui North extends its deepest thanks to the many individuals, businesses, families, schools and organisations who made the annual Foodbank Drive on Thursday 22 October such a meaningful and successful community event. With the support of volunteer drivers, sirens, signage, supermarkets and superettes, students, scribes, sorters and the community as a whole, Whanganui once again demonstrated its extraordinary spirit of giving.

This year's collection has brought the City Mission Foodbank storage facility close to the volume collected in 2022 and 2023, a remarkable achievement in a year where demand for food parcels remains high.



Volunteer students help sort the donated food.

As always, the night delivered its share of fun facts. The oldest item donated was a "Best Before May 2005" Maggi Thai Style Fish Cakes Cook-in-the-Pot sachet, and unexpected contributions included a lipstick, a Catholic medal, toys and even 2024 Christmas chocolates.

Trends remained strong for spaghetti, baked beans, soup, snacks, pet food, and toiletries volumes collected, with tinned "other" beans reaching three times the 2025 total, adding variety to the Foodbank's shelves.

From the vehicle drivers to the sorters, from the students to the supporters, every person involved contributed to a night where happy people came together in the spirit of giving. City Missioner Dr Antony Nobbs says it's almost overwhelming and his favourite night of the year, celebrating the joy and connection that the event brings.

Senior Master – Administration Rob van Dort, who coordinates Collegiate student involvement, shared a quote from Kahlil Gibran: "I slept and I dreamed that life is all joy, I woke and I saw that life is all service. I served and I saw that service is joy."

For anyone who was missed on the night or wishes to donate at any time, contributions can be arranged directly with the City Mission Foodbank at Park Place during business hours.

The Rotary Club of Whanganui North warmly thanks every volunteer, every household, and every organisation for helping ensure the 2026 Foodbank Drive was once again a shining example of Whanganui's generosity and heart.

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Exhibition features six local artists using diverse mediums

Opening in November, *Ināianei | Current* brings together works from six practitioners from the Whanganui region and provides audiences with a vivid and dynamic snapshot of artistic practice in Whanganui as it exists today.

The selected artists work in diverse mediums – ceramic, glass, painting, photography, sculpture and weaving.

Ināianei | Current is a biennial exhibition, generously sponsored by Craigs Investment Partners Whanganui. The exhibition concept has been developed to further strengthen the gallery's commitment to uplifting artists living and working in the Whanganui region.

This is an important opportunity for artists to exhibit a substantial body of work in a public gallery; all artists will be producing new work for *Ināianei | Current*.

Zac O'Brien, Investment Adviser at Craigs Investment Partners Whanganui, says "The Sarjeant Gallery is an important part of Whanganui's cultural identity, and we are delighted to support *Ināianei | Current*. Through this partnership, we are proud to help showcase the exceptional artists who live and create in our region."

The inaugural *Ināianei | Current* exhibition will open on Saturday 7 November 2026 at Te Whare o Rehua Sarjeant Gallery, with the following artists' work:

Leigh Anderton-Hall – ceramic artist

Katie Brown – glass artist

Glen Hutchins – painter

Samantha Matthews – photographer

Kirk Nicholls – sculptor

Trina Taurua – weaver

Artist talks and workshops will follow the opening of the exhibition and will be announced in due course.



Ināianei artists from left: Samantha Matthews, Glen Hutchins, Kirk Nicholls, Katie Brown, Leigh Anderton-Hall. Absent: Trina Taurua.

Andrew London & Swing Voters to entertain at Jazz Club



Andrew London is one of our great treasures, and this weekend he returns to his old stomping ground to entertain us at the November meeting of the Jazz Club held at the St John's Club. He continues to tour and perform throughout the country and abroad, and we are grateful that there is this gap in his busy schedule. His performances range from solo guitar and vocal to full-blown orchestral works. It is fitting that he brings his Swing Voters to the stage in the throes of our general election. Here are Andrew's words:

"The Swing Voters are my vehicle for delivery of my more up-tempo swing, blues and rock'n'roll-based repertoire. The band showcases Wayne Mason (keys) and James Tait-Jamieson (sax), who do most of the improvised soloing, although I can't help myself sometimes and will chime in rudely with some western-swing-influenced guitar. The current repertoire revolves around our recent album *Set Me Up By The Bar* that features several signature satirical rants, sung so fast that one Radio NZ reviewer claimed 'I've never heard anyone sing so many words so fast without swallowing his own tongue'.

"*Set Me Up By The Bar* also sports some poignant country/folk tunes and a handful of rollicking western-swing-inspired songs that give ample opportunity for all three soloists to let loose.

"With my ever-reliable partner Kirsten on bass and the marvellous Michael Franklin-Browne on drums, the band will pepper the setlist with a selection of jazz, blues and swing standards from the 2019 album *Standard Deviations*. There could be dancing (or foot-tapping at the very least).

"The Swing Voters are a high-energy group who allow themselves license to extend a song as the mood takes them.

Join us for some great music as summer and the holiday season approach."

This Sunday 1 November, 6.30pm at St John's Club, 158 Glasgow Street. Members of the St John's and Whanganui Jazz Clubs $15. Memberships available.

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Andrew London & The Swing Voters

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A new Kiwi book for the novice and more experienced rockhound

John Paterson, Whanganui rockhound extraordinaire who featured on the front page of an RCP last year, is continuing his quest to get people excited about discovering semi-precious gemstones and the art of tumbling, so much so that he and fellow rockhound Chrissy Lampitt have published a very helpful guidebook loaded with images: *What's This Stone – A Photographic Collection of Finds from Gemstone Beach*.

Any good rockhound knows New Zealand's mecca for the hobby is Gemstone Beach in Southland; you can find all the book's contents there. But the good news is that many of the rocks can be found at Kai Iwi Beach too – they may just be harder to find, making the discovery all the more satisfying.

Why the South Island and especially Gemstone Beach in Southland, you may ask? John explains,

"The Southern Alps keep getting pushed up because it's between the two major plates. There's a lot of heat and pressure in there, which creates a lot of different kinds of rocks.

"If the Southern Alps weren't eroding, they'd be 10 kilometres higher every million years.

"The Waiau River brings down chunks of rock from the south end of the Southern Alps, carrying them out to the sea, and many of them seem to end up in Te Waewae Bay, especially around Gemstone Beach.

"The same process brings stones down the rivers in Canterbury. And a lot of it gets swept north, and heads to Banks Peninsula, and a lot of gravel is dropped just south of Banks Peninsula, at a place called Birdlings Flat."

Meanwhile, in the Whanganui region, Kai Iwi Beach in particular has "gems" to discover.

Many of the widely scattered stones on Kai Iwi Beach are quartz, including white and orange ones. Jasper and argillite can also be found here. John says to discover a rock's potential, wet it to see a hint of colour and pattern.

John says, "Much less common, but likely to be present, will be breccias and conglomerates, and some forms of granite and rhyolite, and maybe petrified wood. Some igneous stones with white crystals are likely to be there. Although rare, I have found a trace fossil in argillite and an orbicular jasper.

"Of course, Kai Iwi Beach is much better known as a source of various fossils, ranging from shells to moa bones." Kai Iwi Beach Holiday Park has a good display of these.

Common stones found at Kai Iwi Beach, but not included in the book, include pumice, a form of rhyolite, and volcanic scoria, which aren't found on Gemstone Beach.

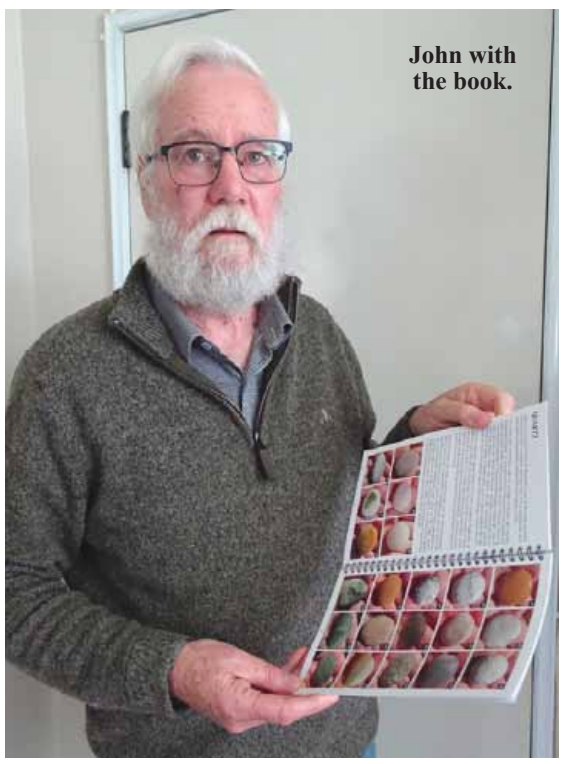
Fossicking around on a beach is a great way to get outdoors and uncover a piece of the past we can only imagine. The Whanganui Rock and Mineral Club is a group of people interested in rocks and fossils – they meet on the second Tuesday of each month at 7pm, Level 2, 76 Guyton St.

Nothing puts life in perspective like rockhounding, and John recommends getting in touch with the local Whanganui Rock and Mineral Club for advice.

John and Chrissy's book, priced at $35.00, can be purchased through John: email john.tumblestone@gmail.com

And follow John's blog Tumblestoneblog.com for all things rockhounding: bit.ly/4s9rkNY





John with the book.

Renowned organist's concert on Sunday

Whanganui Collegiate Chapel will be hosting guest organist as part of their series of Organ Recitals on Sunday 1 November at 5pm.

Ken Dougall has subtitled the event "Fireworks and Remembrance" and it will include music by Handel, Walton, Parry and Holst. Handel's *Music for the Royal Fireworks* was composed for the firework display in London in 1749, in celebration of the Peace of Aix-la-Chapelle.

Ken started his musical career in Edinburgh. He has also played the organ for the Malcolm Sargent Festival Choir at several cathedrals such as Notre Dame in Paris and St Mark's Basilica in Venice. He came to New Zealand in 2011 and is Director of Music for Waikanae Anglican Parish and principal organist at St Paul's Anglican Church in Paraparaumu.

Entry is by Koha.



Organist, Ken Dougall.



In your 20s or 30s? The Games might be for you sooner than you think

Think the New Zealand Masters Games are something you have to wait until you're older to enjoy? Think again.

The 2027 Downer New Zealand Masters Games are coming to Whanganui next February, with over 60+ sports and more than 20 sports and activities have minimum ages that allow people in their 20s to take part, with even more available from age 30.

Touch Rugby, Brazilian Jiu Jitsu, Darts, Gymsport, Netball, Road Runs/Walks, Swimming, Sport Stacking, Tenpin Bowling and Volleyball are among the options.

For Desiree McLean from Masters Touch Whanganui, the Games are an opportunity to get more people playing Touch and rebuild the strong local community around the game.

Desiree wants to see former players return, old teammates reconnect and new participants feel welcome to join in.

"Now is the time to get back out there," Desiree says. "Whether you played Masters Touch years ago, still have a passion for the game or have been thinking about giving it a go, this is your invitation to get involved."



Touch Rugby will be played at Springvale Park on 6 and 7 February 2027, with a minimum age of 25 for men and 21 for women.

For Desiree, Masters Touch is about more than what happens on the field. It's about whanaungatanga, hauora, keeping active, friendships and having a laugh together.

So perhaps it's time to find the old team chat, see who's still keen and get a team together. And if you don't already have a team, you can put your hand up to join one.

The social side continues at the Games Village, with evening entertainment forming part of the Games experience for registered participants.

Games Village access is included with Games registration for those participating in a sport. Friends, whānau, supporters and locals who aren't registered to participate can also join the celebrations by purchasing a pass.

A Games Village Supporter Pass costs $60 and provides access to all 10 nights of Games Village entertainment, while a Party Pass costs $30 for one night.

Big Wednesday will feature Tiki Taane performing at the Games Village. The night is included for registered Games participants, while non-playing supporters can purchase a Big Wednesday Pass for $50.

Whether you're keen to get back on the field or simply want to be part of the Games atmosphere, 5–14 February 2027 will bring plenty of opportunities to get involved right here in Whanganui.

Explore the sports available at nzmg.com and register for the 2027 Downer New Zealand Masters Games.

Keep Playing | Kori Tonu

Fill a shoebox for stuggling families this Christmas

Hakeke Street Community Centre & Library and Love and Learn Care and Education invite the community to fill a shoebox with toys for struggling whānau this Christmas. It's a chance to embrace the real meaning of Christmas, a time of giving.

The team have shoebox collection points outside Kiwiana Cafe (Trafalgar Square), Hakeke Street Library and Community Centre, and Love and Learn.

Who receives the gifts? Shey Lile-Andrews, a kaiako at Love and Learn Care and Education and a Hakeke Street Library and Community Centre board member, says, "All of our shoeboxes go into the Whanganui community, so we reach out to local schools, daycares, Ministry of Education, Work and Income, Plunket – basically any agencies we can find – for nominations for people that they think could do with just a little bit of awhi (help)."



Some of the filled shoeboxes.

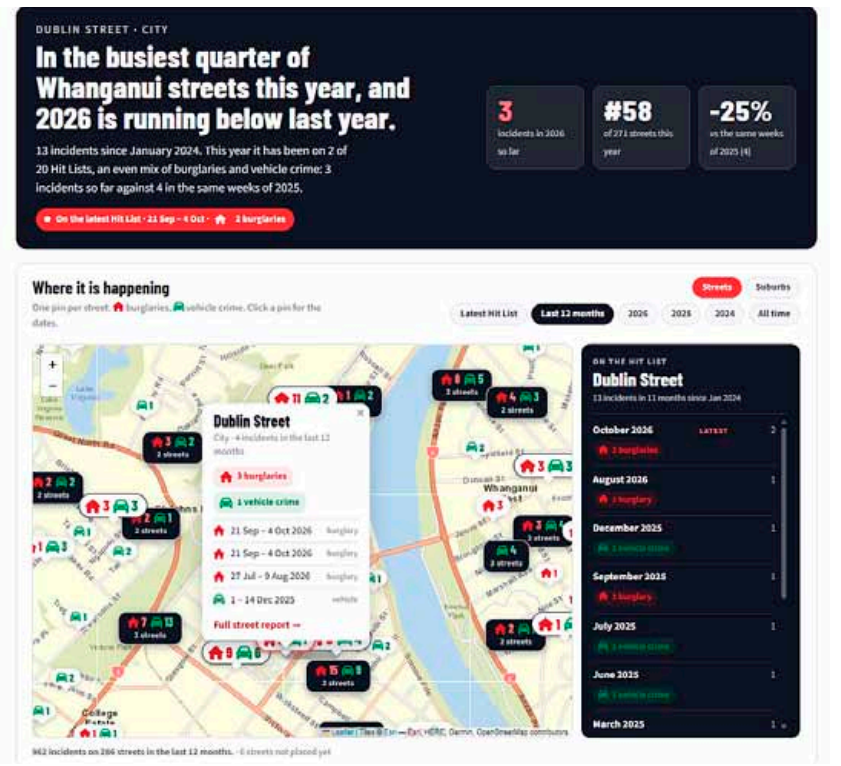
Last year, the team distributed to 452 children; the project has run for four years and filled all nominations each year.

Box collection cutoff is the first week of December.

The team curates gifts for all tamariki in a family, not just one person; everyone gets a piece of Christmas joy.

Drop off your filled shoebox at one of the collection points – Trafalgar Square or Hakeke Street Library and Community Centre – by 4 December to make a difference this Christmas.

Burglary alerts in your neighbourhood available from Alarm Watch at no cost



A screenshot of the Alarm Watch website.

Alarm Watch, Whanganui's award-winning security business, has found another way to help the community by providing regularly updated data on burglaries and car break-ins across the city from the last three years. Access doesn't require an Alarm Watch membership; everyone can access it at no cost.

Wade Coneybeer, Alarm Watch general manager, is excited about an additional feature: "Another cool little thing, you can actually sign up for your street or suburb to get alerts via email."

Alarm Watch's information is useful for neighbourhood watch groups, residents, and anyone who wants to see local crime statistics. The more visible crime is, the more power citizens have to counter the threat.

Wade adds, "You can see the history of your suburb. So you can see how many times there's been burglaries or car crime in your suburb, and you can also do it at street level, and it does year-by-year comparison."

"We love what we do," says Wade, referencing the team at Alarm Watch.

River City Press will continue to publish the "Latest Hit List" of burglaries and car break-ins, supported by Alarm Watch each fortnight.

Visit https://alarmwatch.co.nz/crime-map/ to search for information about your street and https://alarmwatch.co.nz/crime-stat-search/ for a deep dive into streets and suburbs. Free Hit List registration is available on both pages.



~ Whanganui's Housing Trust - getting it right ~

There has been considerable public debate about Whanganui District Council's decision to establish a social housing trust. Concerns about establishment costs, the condition of existing pensioner housing and the possible transfer of Council assets are understandable.

However, we should be careful not to throw the baby out with the bathwater, particularly when the bath hasn't even been filled!

Council currently owns 275 aging pensioner housing units, many requiring substantial investment. Meanwhile, Whanganui faces increasing demand for affordable housing, with estimates suggesting another 2000 homes will be needed over the next decade.

The proposed trust aims to attract investment and funding that may not otherwise be available to Council.

Council has approved $700,000 towards developing the proposal, with a further $500,000 approved for 2026/27. These are significant commitments, and ratepayers are entitled to understand the expected benefits.

Importantly, establishing the trust does not automatically mean transferring Council's pensioner housing portfolio into it. That decision, including the financial implications, requires careful consideration.

The decision to establish the trust has been made. Rather than continuing to debate its existence, the Whanganui Residents and Ratepayers Association believes the priority should now be ensuring it delivers worthwhile outcomes.

That requires transparency, meaningful consultation, sound governance and financial accountability.

The WRRA intends to arrange question-and-answer meetings, giving members the opportunity to better understand the proposal, raise concerns and contribute constructively.

Our position is neither unquestioning support nor automatic opposition. It is about ensuring that decisions are informed, public assets are protected and the trust delivers lasting benefits to Whanganui.

Democracy works best when all of us work at it.

Whanganui Residents and Ratepayers Association Inc.

Monthly indoor craft market starts Sunday

For the love of handcrafting and community, three ladies – Kristina Pollero, Carol Neal and Linda Spence – are amongst others who have organised a monthly indoor craft market. It brings together a collection of other crafters on the first Sunday of each month at Seventh Day Adventist Church Hall, 62 Dublin Street, from 9am to 2pm. Entry is free.



Craft Market Whanganui stall holders from left: Kristina Pollero, Carol Neal and seated, Linda Spence.

The carefully curated stalls offer an array of homemade crafts, including crochet and knitting, soft toys, plushies and baby clothes, designer greeting cards, macramé, decoupage, jewellery, shell art, garden ornaments and plaster of Paris designs. There will also be home baking, bath bombs, face painting and more.

Kristina says, "It's curated to ensure that it is genuine craft and we want to avoid duplicate stalls."

They are people that enjoy their crafts, and they also enjoy the fact that they are selling craft for other people to enjoy.

Having the market indoors provides a safe environment for the crafts that have had hours poured into their creation. It's also pleasant for visitors as well.

"We aim for a friendly, family-type atmosphere," says Carol, "because that's what inspires crafts in the home."

With Christmas coming, it's a perfect place to find a meaningful gift, handcrafted mostly here in Whanganui.

Enquires can be made through Crafters Market Whanganui Facebook page.

Crafters Market Whanganui

Sunday 1 November, Seventh Day Adventist Church Hall, 62 Dublin Street, 9am–2pm.

Entry is free.

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WHANGANUI HIGH SCHOOL

www.whanganuihigh.school.nz

Tēnā koutou katoa

Academic assessment season is very much in the forefront of the minds of all students and staff members at present as we enter the home straight for the 2026 school year.

All the very best to all our senior school students in your NCEA and Scholarship external examinations.

PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER FOR OCTOBER 2026

Ngā mihi nui
Martin McAllen - Principal

IMPORTANT DATES

Tuesday 3 November
Graduation Breakfast & Year 13 Prizegiving Evening

Wednesday 4 November
Year 12 Prizegiving Day

Thursday 5 November
Year 11 Prizegiving Day

Friday 6 November & Monday 9 November
Junior Examinations

Monday 16 November
Teacher Only Day (Curriculum changes)

Thursday 19 November
Tough Teens Inter- School Sports Competition

Friday 4 December
Junior Prizegiving Day (Last day of Term 4)

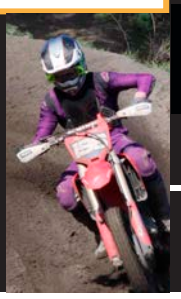
WINTER 2026 Tournament Week

Tournament Week was another hugely successful week for Whanganui High School, with teams travelling across the North Island and representing the school with pride, determination and plenty of team spirit. From football and hockey to netball, equestrian, badminton, target shooting and motocross, our students produced some outstanding performances and created plenty of memories along the way.

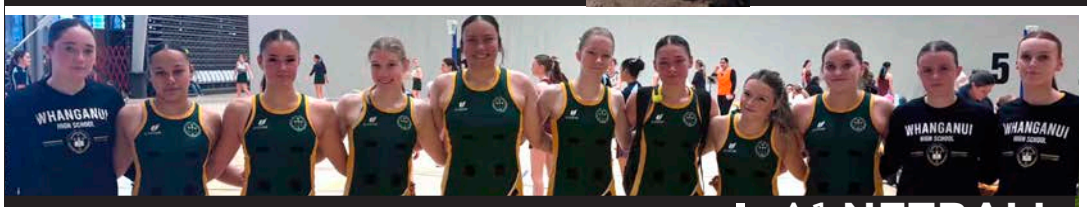
WHANGANUI HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS Proudly Supported By
STEELFORMERS · MITRE 10 MEGA WHANGANUI WITH YOU ALL THE WAY · LCCL · ELTech · MTVIEW · GOME · grassroots trust central · nzct COMMUNITY TRUST

Congratulations to all of our students, coaches, managers, supporters and families who contributed to another fantastic Tournament Week. The commitment, sportsmanship and pride shown by our students across the country was a wonderful reflection of Whanganui High School.

MOTOCROSS TEAM



Five WHS riders travelled to Taikorea MX Park to compete in the Secondary Schools Motocross Championships. The one-day event provided challenging conditions, with some tough laps followed by rain making the racing even more demanding.Despite the conditions, all five riders battled through and completed their races, with Finn Lennox and Leah Bullock both finishing 4th in their respective races.



A1 NETBALL

Our A1 Netball team travelled to Wellington for the Lower North Island Secondary School Championships. Ten games of netball across five days made for a demanding week, with the team producing some excellent performances and several closely fought matches. The team finished 20th in the A Grade out of 32 teams, gaining valuable experience against some of the strongest secondary school teams in the region. Huge thank you to our Sports Coordinator Jessie Madams who came along as the team umpire for the week.

PLACED 20TH

A special congratulations to Coach Lisa Murphy, who was presented with a Service Award from the LNISS Committee in recognition of her many years of service to netball at the tournament.



1ST XI GIRLS FOOTBALL

PLACED 9TH

Our 1st XI Girls Football team travelled north to Auckland for the Kathy Seaward Tournament. The girls faced a tough pool and were unfortunate not to progress into the top eight after some closely contested matches. They finished 9th overall, capping off a very successful tournament and a week of excellent football.

JUNIOR BOYS FOOTBALL

Our Junior Boys Football team travelled to Tauranga to compete at the Hillsdene Junior Tournament. This was a significant occasion for Whanganui High School, as it was the first time the school had entered a junior boys football team at a national tournament.
The team performed exceptionally well throughout the tournament, playing some great football and finishing 6th overall. An impressive first appearance on the national stage!



PLACED 6TH

The 1st XI Boys Hockey team competed at the Mayhill Cup on the North Shore, where they faced a number of hard-fought games throughout the week.
The tournament finished with plenty of excitement, as their final game went all the way to a penalty shootout. The boys held their nerve to secure the win and finish 11th overall.



PLACED 11TH

1ST XI BOYS HOCKEY



EQUESTRIAN

Our Equestrian team of six girls and their horses travelled to Taupō for the NISS Equestrian Championships.
The competition featured five different riding classes as well as a quiz, providing a challenging and varied three days of competition.
The girls performed strongly across the riding classes, picking up several second placings. The highlight, however, came in the quiz, where the team went head-to-head with 80 teams and emerged as the 2026 NISS Equestrian Quiz Champions. An outstanding achievement!



PLACED 18TH

1ST XI GIRLS HOCKEY

Our 1st XI Girls Hockey team travelled to the North Shore for the Chica Gilmer Trophy.
The girls enjoyed a fantastic week away, combining great hockey with plenty of laughs, team bonding, and memories that will last well beyond the tournament.
The team finished 18th overall and represented Whanganui High School with pride throughout the week.
A special thank you to ex-students Travis Bayler and Thomas Dwyer for giving up their time to umpire for the team. Your support, commitment, and willingness to give back to the school is hugely appreciated. Thank you, Travis and Thomas!



BADMINTON

PLACED 1ST

Five of our girls represented Whanganui High School at the NZSS Badminton Championships in Porirua. The team produced an outstanding performance throughout the tournament, taking on some tough opposition and showing great determination.
Their hard work paid off as they finished 1st in Division 2 — an exceptional result for the team. Congratulations, girls!

TARGET SHOOTING *NZ Inter-Secondary Schools Inter-Island Match*

Six students represented Whanganui High School at the Target Shooting New Zealand Inter-Secondary Schools Inter-Island Match, with 34 secondary school teams competing. The WHS team of Aria Hill, Patrick McCartie and Marshall Munro produced an outstanding performance, finishing as the top North Island team after a thrillingly close contest. They won by just 0.05 points over St Orans College. All three shooters performed exceptionally well, with Patrick McCartie recording a personal best score of 100.07 out of a possible 100.10.
Aria and Patrick were both selected for the North Island team and went on to be named in the New Zealand team to compete against Great Britain on Sunday. Patrick also finished as the top boy at the competition — an outstanding achievement.





PLACED 9TH

1ST XI BOYS FOOTBALL

The 1st XI Boys Football team headed to Rotorua for the Trident Tournament, where they enjoyed an outstanding week of football. The boys won all but one of their games, competing strongly against some of the biggest football schools from around New Zealand.
They finished a very respectable 9th out of 32 teams, a fantastic result in a highly competitive tournament.

NZ String Quartet to perform legendary music

New Zealand String Quartet returns to Whanganui for an evening of legendary music, including Beethoven's *String Quartet No. 11*, Claire Cowan's beloved *Hansel and Gretel* and Britten's final String Quartet, plus a winning work by emerging Aotearoa composer Sara Arain.

The members of the New Zealand String Quartet – Te Rōpū Tūrū o Aotearoa eagerly await their return to Whanganui this month to present their season-capping *Storytellers: Legend* programme in collaboration with Chamber Music Whanganui. Celebrating the art of storytelling through music, the programme includes legendary works by Beethoven, Benjamin Britten and New Zealander Claire Cowan, plus a specially written piece by an emerging Aotearoa voice, Sara Arain. The Quartet is inviting everyone, whether this is your first or fortieth chamber music concert, to join them for an entertaining evening of storytelling, connection and great music at the War Memorial Centre.

The *Legend* programme opens with emerging composer Sara Arain's *The Internal Eclipse*, selected by the Quartet as the winning work in their competition for NZ School of Music – Te Kōkī students. Committed to supporting the next generation of composers, the NZSQ will perform this beautiful work – based on an ancient Persian mystical tale – across five dates on their *Legend* tour.

The programme continues with Ludwig van Beethoven's high-octane and form-breaking *String Quartet No. 11, Op. 95*, that continues to surprise and thrill audiences to this day.

To complete their year-long tribute to the fiftieth anniversary of Benjamin Britten's death, the NZSQ will perform his third and final string quartet. This quietly luminous piece, based on themes from his final opera, Death in Venice, serves as a poignant musical farewell, made even more profound by the fact it was the last major work Britten ever composed.

The Quartet will bring their 2026 Season to a jubilant close with acclaimed Auckland composer Claire Cowan's "Sweet Suite: Hansel and Gretel highlights" – a magical reimagining of her internationally celebrated ballet score, which was the first full-length ballet composed by a New Zealand woman and enjoyed an incredible five-week, sold-out national tour by the Royal New Zealand Ballet in 2019.

The Whanganui audience is in for a real treat with two debuts! Both NZSQ violinist Peter Clark and the quartet's new cellist Martin Smith, will be making their first performance in Whanganui. The Quartet is also pleased to welcome Martin Riseley as guest violinist on this tour.



NZSQ String Quartet. Photo credit: Jerry Chu Photography.

Each piece is preceded by a friendly and informative introduction by the Quartet members, shedding light on the stories behind the music, making it an enriching experience for everyone. The NZSQ is looking forward to welcoming you all to this special evening of music and storytelling!

New Zealand String Quartet presents: Legend

Friday 6 November, 7.30pm–9.30pm, Concert Chamber, War Memorial Centre, Watt Street.

Book in advance from RWOH Box Office, or purchase tickets at the door (cash only, no eftpos)

Bookings: https://rwoh.sales.ticketsearch.com/sales/salesevent/161359

Tickets: Adults $40, Seniors $35, Chamber Music Whanganui subscriber $25, Students $5 (+ fees)

Learn more about the New Zealand String Quartet's 2026 Season: www.nzsq.org.nz/upcoming-concerts

Former Whanganui Town Cryer writes comedy play *Spaced Out*, to be performed this week

Marton Players present their only show for 2026: a very funny comedy called *Spaced Out*, onstage this week at Marton Players theatre.

It's a short play, originally written as a radio play by former Whanganui Town Cryer, Geoff Follett, and adapted for the stage. It is directed by Warwick Hill who returns to Marton after 20 years away. Geoff also appears in the play as a multitalented Russian scientist who concocts an uplifting substance.

The international crew of a CRAP spacecraft run by The Corporation, orbit the earth and try to keep on track with a diminishing budget. Earth offers little help, and aliens attack.



Kylie Toka and Geoff Follett orbiting the earth in a play he wrote called *Spaced Out*. Onstage at Marton Players this week.



faces as well as several experienced, former and current Marton Players actors, including Craig Durston, Geoff Follett, Les White, Rachael Chambers, Kylie Toka, Tamara Lind and Jayden Kingi-Rua.

The homegrown stage script, premiering locally, has public performances scheduled at Marton Players Theatre, 366 Wellington Rd, on Thursday 29 October, Friday 30 October, Saturday 31 October at 7.30pm, and a Saturday matinee at 2pm.

Tickets cost $20. Seniors and students are $15. The play lasts over an hour.

There'll be cash door sales or email martonplayersinc@gmail.com to book and pay online.





Whanganui can and should do better at managing waste

A letter to the community from Whanganui District Council.

We all use roads and footpaths to connect us to the rest of the community, and we all use water coming out of our taps. One other thing we all do, as residents, businesses and organisations, is generate waste.

The choices we make about what we buy, reuse, repair, recycle, compost and throw away affect our environment, our climate and our wallets.

Putting it bluntly, Whanganui is a bit rubbish when it comes to managing our waste responsibly.

In 2024/25, we generated a whopping 46,300 tonnes of waste, with 23% of this recovered through reuse, recycling or composting. That's around 724kg of waste sent to landfill per person in a single year, compared to the national average of 530kg.

To top this off, nearly half (48%) of what we put in our household rubbish bins is organic food and garden waste.

When we look at everything we're sending to landfill, an estimated 85% could be composted, recycled, reused or repurposed. Let that sink in.

These figures show that much of what we currently pay to bury still has value and could be reused in some way.

We can and should do better.

We are facing real challenges regarding how we manage waste in the future. Landfills take an extraordinary amount of time to consent and are hugely expensive to establish and operate. They're also a finite resource. Our waste doesn't magically disappear when it gets picked up on collection day.



Whanganui Resource Recovery Centre, 81 Maria Place.

Population and economic growth will place increasing pressure on our services and infrastructure if we don't reduce waste and reuse and recycle more material.

When we look at everything we're sending to landfill, an estimated 85% could be composted, recycled, reused or repurposed.

Over the past year, we've talked to our partners, stakeholders, sector groups and community about what you all think needs to change.

That feedback has helped shape our draft Waste Management and Minimisation Plan 2027–2033, which sets the direction for how we can reduce waste, recover more useful materials, and responsibly manage the waste we cannot avoid.

The Plan's vision is for waste minimisation to become a natural part of everyday life in Whanganui.

This means moving away from seeing unwanted materials simply as rubbish and instead making it easier for people to avoid waste, reuse and repair items, recycle and compost, and keep valuable resources in use for longer.

It also means designing services that are accessible, practical, and affordable.

We're proposing four key actions:

- a council-provided rubbish collection and a separate garden/food waste collection for households in the kerbside area, subject to a feasibility study
- a fit-for-purpose and future-proof Resource Recovery Centre to address construction waste
- reviewing rural waste services
- helping businesses and events reduce waste

We also have over 20 other supporting actions in the full Waste Plan to help us be better guardians for future generations.

You can read more about the four key actions on the opposite page, or view a more detailed overview on the consultation webpage.

We recognise that new or improved services have costs and must be carefully tested for affordability, value and effectiveness. That's why many of the proposals begin with investigation rather than immediate implementation.

The draft Plan is not a set of final decisions, but a proposed pathway.

This is your community and your Waste Plan. We want to know whether you support the proposals, which ones should be prioritised, and what you would change, add or remove.

Your feedback will help shape the final Plan.

Have your say by Thursday 12 November using the feedback form on the opposite page or online at whanganui.govt.nz/wasteplan

The draft Plan and full list of actions is available online, at libraries and the Whanganui District Council at 101 Guyton Street.

WANGANUI SECONDARY SCHOOL NEWS

Mid-week focus, weekend freedom: The part-time boarding advantage



In an era of busy work schedules, evening sports runs, and constant screen time, local families often struggle to protect quality time together. Traditional boarding was once seen as sending a child away for months. Today, Whanganui Collegiate School is reshaping that narrative with a flexible, modern approach: Part-Time Boarding.

Designed specifically for local and regional households, Part-Time Boarding allows students to stay on campus for two to three fixed nights a week (or opt for a four-night Monday-to-Friday model). It delivers the structure and community of a classic boarding experience while keeping family life firmly at the centre.

Key benefits for local families

- **No more homework battles:** Evening prep is supervised by residential tutors and academic staff, ensuring schoolwork is completed on campus – leaving home time stress-free.
- **Streamlined daily commutes:** Part-time stays eliminate early morning drop-offs, traffic jams and late-night pick-ups after sports practices.
- **Fostering independence:** Students gain self-reliance, confidence and essential life skills within a supportive pastoral environment, all while staying close to home.
- **Real connection over screen time:** Evenings are filled with shared meals, house activities and genuine friendships rather than isolated device time.
- **Protected family weekends:** By keeping mid-week focus on campus, weekends remain completely free for relaxing together at home.

Supported by small class sizes, personalised academic mentoring and dedicated wellbeing teams, Collegiate's flexible options ensure every student thrives without disrupting family routines.

Discover Collegiate for 2027/2028

Applications are now open for flexible and full boarding options.

- **Tour Day (November 6):** Experience house life firsthand, meet key staff, and explore the campus.
- **Bookings and Information:** Visit www.collegiate.school.nz, call 06 349 0110, or email admissions@collegiate.school.nz.

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Advance Care Planning Workshop
A written plan that lets others know what is important to you, if you become unwell or unable to speak for yourself.
Age Concern 164 St Hill Street Whanganui
Wednesday 11th November 10.00 - 11.30am
A step-by-step guide in plain language, with opportunity to ask questions in a relaxed and friendly environment.
To register email **info@wrhn.org.nz** or call **06 348 0109**.
AGE CONCERN WHANGANUI
Whanganui Regional Health Network

Draft Waste Management and Minimisation Plan 2027–2033

TE KAUNIHERA Ā-ROHE O Whanganui DISTRICT COUNCIL

We want to hear your views on our draft Waste Plan. The Plan proposes four key actions to improve waste services in our district and reduce the amount of waste being sent to landfill.

You can read the full Plan at our libraries, the council at 101 Guyton Street, or online: **whanganui.govt.nz/wasteplan**

Four key actions

1 Council-provided rubbish and garden/food waste collections

Investigate introducing two new rates-funded services:

- **kerbside rubbish collection**
- **kerbside garden/food waste collection**.

The services could significantly reduce waste going to landfill, particularly garden/food waste. Rates would rise, but many households would pay less overall than they currently do with private rubbish collections.

Subject to feasibility work and Long-Term Plan approval.

2 Resource Recovery Centre upgrades

Develop a fit-for-purpose and future-proof centre, with a **focus on construction and demolition waste**.

The review would also consider improving recycling and reuse, better waste disposal facilities, and other future service options.

This could be at the current site or a new one. Nothing is decided yet. Any significant costs would need Long-Term Plan approval and would affect rates.

3 Review rural waste services and recycling access

Review rural waste services to improve access to recycling and responsible waste disposal for households outside the kerbside collection area.

This would assess drop-off locations, materials accepted, service coverage, convenience and ways to reduce illegal dumping.

The initial $90,000 investigation would be funded by the waste disposal levy, with no rates impact.

4 Help businesses and events reduce waste

More practical support for businesses and events to reduce waste.

This could include waste minimisation advice, more recycling options, commercial glass recycling, and better event waste guidance.

Estimated cost $200,000, likely funded by the waste disposal levy, user charges, and possibly rates. Subject to Long-Term Approval.

The cost of the proposed actions across the full Plan is estimated at $5.9 million a year over 10 years. **Nothing is finalised yet.** Any new actions would depend on available funding and future council approval.

Have your say

Is the proposed action a priority? *Tick one box for each proposal*	**Yes, this is a priority** (next 1-3 years)	**Maybe, but not an immediate priority** (4-6 years' time)	**Leave out of plan** (stick to current services)	**Not sure**
1. Kerbside rubbish and garden/food waste collections	☐	☐	☐	☐
2. Resource Recovery Centre upgrades	☐	☐	☐	☐
3. Rural waste services and recycling access	☐	☐	☐	☐
4. Help businesses and events reduce waste	☐	☐	☐	☐

Which proposal should be given the highest priority? *Rank all four: 1 = highest priority, 4 = lowest priority.*

☐ **Kerbside rubbish and food/garden waste collections**

☐ **Resource Recovery Centre upgrades**

☐ **Rural waste services**

☐ **Businesses and events waste support**

What would you change, add or remove from the draft Plan, including its priorities or funding?

Is there anything else you would like us to consider?

Name: _____

Organisation (if applicable): _____

Email or phone: _____

Would you like to speak to your submission? ☐ **Yes** ☐ **No**

Submissions close Thursday 12 November 2026

You can **return your completed feedback** form to Whanganui District Council (101 Guyton Street), any council library, or the Whanganui Resource Recovery Centre (Maria Place) **or scan the QR code to give feedback online.**

To read our privacy policy, visit: **whanganui.govt.nz/privacy**

Homage art exhibition captures the humanity of the people of Palestine



Patrick Baker with some of his artworks.

Homage is the title of Patrick Baker's latest exhibition at the Whanganui Community Art Centre. The title expresses Patrick's deep respect for Palestinian artist Sliman Mansour (1947–2026), a prominent painter, sculptor and author recognised as a founding figure of contemporary Palestinian resistance art.

"I've just always looked at his work as something that has basically covered the history of Palestine, from times of peace to times of resistance; he was a beautiful, gentle human being," says Patrick.

Many of the exhibition's works capture the colour and humanity of the people of Palestine, with expressive, haunting faces. "I've always had a fascination with the interplay of hands and faces. It's just a matter of developing the skills to portray it," Patrick says.

Several paintings capture colourful geometric patterns inspired by Mansour with a 3-D quality, sometimes juxtaposed with darker, earthier colours. The contrast and impact are striking. Patrick says, "The rich colours are emblematic of the tapestries that were worn by Palestinian women on their bodices, using acrylics."

Patrick, who loved painting in oils so much he would tell his friends, "I could bathe in turpentine." But after years away from creating, when he picked up oil paints again, the smell made him feel ill.

Now he works in acrylics, which he says, "has been a challenge because they're just two completely different mediums." He enjoys the new medium, and relishes in the delight of "just seeing something that'll pop up under the brush."

The majority of Patrick's works can be purchased.

Homage

Whanganui Community Arts Centre, 19 Taupō Quay, 10am–4pm daily.

The exhibition is open until midday on 1 November.

Patrick also has his own gallery beneath the Quaker Settlement meeting room at 256 Wicksteed St, open on Sundays, 1–3pm.

Supplied Poem

Friday

Hooray! There is the paper
From tempest, slightly damp
Tucked safely in the letterbox
Deliverer, you're a champ.

No matter what the weather does
Gales, hail, weather bombs, the lot
This hero of the newsprint
Tucks it safely in the slot.

It's a cracker little paper
Grammatical errors few
This little writing caper
Gives credit where it's due.

- Dodo

FARM TO FORK OUR MENUS

MENU A
5 November
3 December

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

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

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

Chicken Saagwala
Served on a bed of rice

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

MENU B
12 November
10 December

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

Devilled Sausages
On mashed potato, cabbage, peas & broccoli

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

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

Chicken & Pumpkin Lasagne
Served with spinach, broccoli, peas

MENU C
19 November
17 December

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

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

Prawn & Chorizo Rice Bake
With fresh herbs

Sausage & Caramelised Onion Quiche
With paprika potato & leek gratin

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

MENU D
26 November
7 January

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

Baked Potato with Lamb Mince
Shredded cheese & sour cream

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

Dan-Dan Noodles
Stir-fried vegetables & spring onion

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

SIDES & SIZES

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

Family Option $30 (900g+ meat) - you supply
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TRIUMPH Riders MCC NZ WANGANUI
16th ANNUAL DICE RUN
SATURDAY 7TH NOVEMBER
BEARS BIKES ONLY
$30.00 per person – Registration from 8.30am
Ride leaves from Caltex on the Ave @ 10.00am

Motorcycle riders encouraged to join the fundraising dice run



A lineup of club owners bikes at a previous social ride.

Mal Skinner, a member of the Whanganui Triumph Riders Motorcycle Club, started the ball (dice) rolling for what would become a fundraiser involving 19 chapters throughout the country, raising funds for their communities. This year, Whanganui club will host its 16th annual event and is raising funds for Life Flight Trust and Westpac Chopper. If you own a European or American motorcycle, you're welcome to join in this great cause and have some fun along the way. Save the date for the 16th Annual Dice Run on 7 November and register to take part.

Registration starts at 8.30am at the Caltex Petrol Station on Victoria Avenue. At 10am, you will head off to your first destination, and at each stop you'll be enlightened about your next port of call. The ride takes in some of the best motorcycling roads in the region, and there will be plenty of refreshment breaks, including a lunch stop at midday.

Where does the dice fit in? Well, at each stop each participant will roll the dice, and the person with the highest at each stop will win a $100 prize.

At the end of a great day of "saddle time", a barbeque will be laid on at the Whanganui Triumph Riders Motorcycle Club rooms, The Barracks Bunker, on St Hill Street, Whanganui. The barbeque is included in the entry price.

The overall winner of the dice run, the person who has the highest total of dice rolls throughout the day, will receive the major prize.

Over 100 people are expected to be part of the ride, including members from other chapters around the country, enjoying the camaraderie with fellow bike owners, the tune of the deep and powerful exhaust notes in unison on the road, and the opportunity to help fund two very worthwhile causes.

All this adds up to a priceless day, for just $30.

For more information, contact Paul, 027 4453 462.

Right: Nutz and Red



Below: Doug and Chris





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Whanganui Animal Welfare Charitable Trust

Raising funds for SPCA Whanganui

Animal welfare trust donate vital equipment to local SPCA



Trustees Shona Howe, Vallie Finlay, and St John's Club President Royce Tunbridge with the new commerical washing machine.

October was another successful month for the Whanganui Animal Welfare Charitable Trust. Trustee Shona Howe reported that the Trust raised significant funds from a Quiz Night, a donation from the St John's Club and a bequest. These funds allowed the Trust to purchase essential high-cost items for the Whanganui SPCA.

Shona stated that providing this equipment makes a tangible difference. It improves the efficiency of the local SPCA Centre, enabling staff and volunteers to devote more time to the animals and helping our community.

The Centre now has a new commercial washing machine for the dog area. This machine is necessary to clean the large daily volume of blankets and toys, which ensures hygiene and comfort for the dogs and puppies in SPCA care.

The Trust also provided a second large incubator and several heartbeat plushies needed for the upcoming kitten season. The large incubators are lifesavers, supporting vulnerable newborn and infant kittens, as well as infant puppies and other small animals. For infants without mothers, the heartbeat plushies provide comfort and security by mimicking a mother's heartbeat and soft fur.

Additionally, Whanganui SPCA foster volunteers will be equipped with large soft-sided playpens, ideal for nursing cat mums and their kittens. The Trust also provided several digital scales to help staff and fosterers monitor the weight of infant animals.

Professional painters wanted! Can you donate your time, tools and paint to refresh the cat adoption rooms? These rooms need a spruce-up to maintain hygiene and to keep them looking good. Contact Francie Flis-Pryce, Manager of SPCA Whanganui (06 345 3369), or the Trust (Shona 027 268 4688) if you can help.

SPCA Street Appeal

The SPCA's major fundraising initiative wrapping up in early November is the "Fill the Bucket" Street Appeal, running online from 26 October to 1 November 2026, with the physical street collection taking place across New Zealand on Friday 30 October and Saturday 31 October 2026, including Whanganui.

The funds raised will primarily cover:

- **Surgery costs** for animals in need.
- **Basic care essentials** for litters in SPCA's Centres.
- **Foster care costs**, which many animals require.

SPCA volunteers will be located around town on **Friday, 30 October and Saturday, 31 October 2026.**

Majestic Square – 9am–5pm

Pak N Save – 9am–5pm

Bunnings Whanganui –11am–3pm

Alternative way to participate

Donate Online: If you miss the street collectors, you can give directly through the digital www.spca.nz/donate/donate-now?donate-step=amount

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Being "caught short" is no fun - Council want to know

The RCP recently received a query from a member of the public concerned about the early closure of certain public toilets in the city, which are typically scheduled to close at dusk. The person cited a few examples, including three separate outings with family around 4pm at Williams Domain, Peat Park and Aramoho Shopping Centre.

Whanganui District Council chief infrastructure officer Lance Kennedy provided a quick response to RCP's query regarding unexpected early closure of public toilets in the city:

"The council manages approximately 30 public toilets across the district, and we recognise how important it is for people to be able to access these facilities when they need them.

"We encourage anyone who encounters an unexpected closure or other issue with a public toilet to report it through the council's 24/7 call centre or the Antenno app, so we can follow up promptly.

"Public toilets generally close around dusk, although exact closing times vary between locations and throughout the year. With so many facilities across the district, it's not practical for them all to close at exactly the same time. Instead, toilets are closed progressively as part of the daily closing schedule.

"However, we acknowledge that 4pm is considerably earlier than dusk at this time of year, so we're looking into the reported closures at Williams Domain, Aramoho Shopping Centre and Peat Park to establish whether anything out of the ordinary occurred recently."

The Whanganui District Council 24/7 call centre and main contact number is (06) 349 0001, which is monitored around the clock for urgent inquiries, noise control, and after-hours issues.

Bridge Club results

Whanganui Bridge Club results, week ending 23 October

Monday Nixon Swiss Pairs: Leaders after round 9: 1. M Meyrick J Zhang 126.10 2. T Jones V Kay 114.29 3. A Hodges J Kay 109.14 **Overall Winners Monday Nixon Swiss Pairs:** Michael Meyrick & Jason Zhang

Tuesday Ellery Pairs: N/S 1. D Haynes P Paterson 56.92 2. S Watson P Verhoek 54.62 3. V Baillie S Dempsey 53.46 **E/W** 1. D Forde G MacLachlan 64.81 2. Pam Loader L Vodanovich 60.77 3. W Arathoon G Mulholland 52.12

Wednesday Ladder: N/S 1. C Matthews A Williams 68.33 2. K Rainey C Rothman 56.67 3. R Terrey B Webster 55.83 **E/W** 1. B Rhodes G Walker 63.33 2. J Hagen R Smith 57.92 3. J Bourne S Rainey 46.25

Wednesday Social: 1. V Kay S Watson 63.54 2. R Lakeland G MacLachlan 62.15 3. N Kennedy B Annear 56.60 4. V Baillie S Benefield 55.21 5. A Hodges L Rowland 53.82

Friday Social: N/S 1. B Franklin-Browne O Mackintosh 58.85 2. A Thirtle A Bennett 57.12 3. J Rapson M Wyley 55.90 4. J Compton-Schon B Mackintosh 55.03 5=. J Donkervoort R Lakeland 54.69 5=. N Bartrum J Dodds 54.69 **E/W** 1. C Chesswas C Raisin 63.46 2. L Goodrich J Jones 59.62 3. N Kennedy J Wagstaff 54.17 4. H Jarrett L Vodanovich 52.08 5. G Handley G MacLachlan 50.64

Community Diwali celebration this Saturday



The Lotus Indian Group has been bringing colour and community celebration to Whanganui by hosting the annual Diwali Festival – the Festival of Lights for the last four years, and the free festival returns on 31 October. Everyone is welcome.

This celebration of light, knowledge and new beginnings will be held on Saturday 31 October at the War Memorial Centre from 6pm to 9.30pm.

The evening will feature colourful cultural performances, music and dance from our local community, and a chance to experience the joy and colours of Diwali together.

The Punjabi Association Bhangra Group From Palmerston North will perform. Bhangra is a high-energy folk dance from the Punjab region, built on a steady four-beat drum rhythm, with a constant bounce in the knees, active shoulder shrugs and expressive arm movements.

Geeta, the main organiser of the event, says, "We haven't had Bhangra for a long time."

New to the list of performers is a belly dancer – not a traditional Indian dance form.

"The dancer will be wearing her proper costume for Diwali, you know, according to our Indian culture," explains Geeta.

Several other performers will take to the stage, and the celebration will be followed by a community dinner and sweets.

All are welcome. This is a family-friendly, inclusive celebration for the whole Whanganui community to enjoy and connect.

The Lotus Indian Group look forward to celebrating with you.

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DIWALI CELEBRATION

500 children take part in Mathex competition



The record breaking St Johns Year 6 team. L to R Liam, Eva, Advil and Khadija.

On the night of Wednesday 21 October, almost 500 children from Year 5 to 8 assembled at Whanganui Intermediate School hall to participate in the annual Mathex competition. Twenty-eight schools from the district took part: from Hunterville to Ohakune to Waverley to Halcombe! As always, excited parents gathered to watch this unlikely sport and cheer when "their" team got a correct answer. Local teachers acted as markers as the groups of four children received twenty maths questions to answer, with one question at a time until they answered it correctly within a 30-minute time slot.

This year, there was great excitement in the Year 6 competition when a team from St Johns Hill School set a new record by answering all twenty questions in a record time of 13 minutes 41 seconds.

The organising committee are very grateful for the support of local schools and teachers, and to Whanganui Intermediate for the use of their hall. This competition has been running for a very long time – some of the teachers involved participated as students! Everyone is already looking forward to next year!

Year 5 – 1st Mosston School with 20, stopped the clock in 21 minutes 56 seconds. Kiona Tsuji, Tohma Tsuji, Meela Patel, Marshall Francis; 2nd St John's 1 Danusha Bandara, Haiun Park, Jane Guan, Vaida Haxton; 3rd equal St George's 1 Harris Tolchard, Ollie Lin, George Murdoch, Ohakune Primary Joaquin Busan, Van Gray, Zion Collett, Rocco Brandnam, and Upokongaro Zion Nielsen, Llewellyn Meha, Levi Webb, Madeleine Reid.

Year 6 – 1st St Johns 4 with 20 in a new Mathex record of 13 minutes 41 seconds Khadija Ansari, Advik Singh, Eva Sharma, Liam Verhoek; 2nd equal Waverley Hayley Bilyard, Ollie Steenhuisen, Max Wakeling, Harper Lupton and Brunswick Isiah Ranstead, Sam Bowman, Samuel Butler; 3rd St George's Aroha Kauika, Lily Gates, Matilda Jones.

Year 7 – 1st Huntley 1 Eric Jung, Margo Shearer, Jonty Oswald, Harry Brind; 2nd equal WIS 1 Ryan Morris, Owen Stanford, Ben Muller, Jian Lee and Westmere 1 Paterson Tinsley, Jack Harrell, Emmet Bunn, Luca Luoni; 3rd WIS 3 Aria Fremantle, Bea Ward Collins, Peggy Stark, Elizabeth Akinyele.

Year 8 – 1st St George's 1 Abel Lin, Jayden Kong, Carlos Edmonds, Hanyool Cho; 2nd WIS 1 Reuben Smith, Elias Howley, Annabelle Stoop, Atiria Potaka-Osborne Milner-Skudder; 3rd equal Brunswick Harper Ferris, Jake Lim, Nazareno Mazzieri and Halcombe 1 Xavier Cossins, Addie Moran, Perez Wilson, Mackenzie Grant.

GROW a MO

for Men's Health.

Visit: **nz.movember.com** to find out more and to register.

MOVEMBER

Early detection of diabetes makes a difference

This World Diabetes Day, the focus is on early diagnosis and reducing the risk of type 2 diabetes – messages we can all get behind!

Did you know that type 2 diabetes can develop without obvious symptoms? Some people may live with the condition for years without knowing it.

When diabetes goes undetected, it can increase the risk of serious complications, including:

- Heart and blood vessel disease
- Vision loss
- Kidney disease
- Nerve damage and, in severe cases, amputation.

The good news? Early detection makes a difference!

Knowing your risk, recognising possible symptoms and getting checked early can help you access the right support and treatment sooner, reducing the risk of complications.

- Take a moment to think about your risk.
- Learn about the risk factors for type 2 diabetes.
- Talk to your healthcare professional if you're concerned.
- Ask whether a diabetes check is right for you.

You don't have to wait until you feel unwell to take action.

This World Diabetes Day, let's spread the word about the importance of early detection and taking steps towards better health!

worlddiabetesday.org

- Some symptoms -



This checklist is for awareness only and does not diagnose diabetes.

□ I have been told I have prediabetes, impaired glucose tolerance (IGT), or higher-than-normal blood glucose.

□ I have a parent, brother, sister or child with type 2 diabetes.

□ I am overweight or have a high waist measurement.

□ I do little or no regular physical activity.

□ My diet is often high in processed foods, sugary drinks, or foods high in saturated fat and low in fruit, vegetables, whole grains or fibre.

□ I am of Maori, Pacific, Indo-Asian or other non-european descent.

□ I have high blood pressure or take medication for high blood pressure.

□ I have previously had gestational diabetes.

□ I have been diagnosed with a condition associated with increased risk of type 2 diabetes, such as polycystic ovary syndrome (PCOS) or cardiovascular disease.

This checklist is for awareness only and does not diagnose diabetes.

Important: This is not a diagnostic test. Having risk factors does not mean that you have diabetes, and people can develop type 2 diabetes without having obvious risk factors.

Your Result

The more risk factors you tick, the more important it is to discuss your diabetes risk with a healthcare professional.

□ 0–1 factors: Few risk factors identified.

□ 2–3 factors: Some risk factors identified.

□ 4+ factors: Several risk factors identified – speak with your healthcare professional urgently.

Manawatu Horowhenua Tararua Diabetes Trust | www.diabetestrust.org.nz | Facebook MHT Diabetes | 06 357 5992

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Visit: **nz.movember.com** to find out more and to register.

Kiwis rally behind "just a tick" campaign as social media message spreads nationwide

The Prostate Cancer Foundation of New Zealand says thousands of New Zealanders are helping spread an important message about men's health, following the launch of its "Just a Tick – It could save your life" campaign featuring Sir Steve Hansen and Te Radar.

In less than 24 hours, campaign videos and posts across Facebook, Instagram and YouTube have generated strong engagement, with New Zealanders sharing the message with friends, family members and the men in their lives.

The Foundation is encouraging people to keep that momentum going.

"One of the reasons we launched this campaign is because men often put their health at the bottom of the priority list," says Prostate Cancer Foundation Chief Executive Peter Dickens.

"What we're seeing on social media is that wives, partners, daughters, sons, friends and colleagues are stepping up and sharing this message with the men they care about. That's incredibly powerful."

The campaign encourages men aged 40 and over to talk to their doctor about including a prostate blood test as part of their regular health check.

"The next time you're seeing your doctor or having blood taken, simply ask whether a prostate blood test should be included," Dickens says.

"It could be one extra tick on a form, but it could also be the conversation that leads to earlier detection and better outcomes."

Campaign ambassadors Sir Steve Hansen and Te Radar have helped bring a straightforward and distinctly Kiwi voice to a serious issue.

Prostate cancer is New Zealand's most commonly diagnosed cancer in men, with around 4,500 diagnoses and 740 deaths every year. Due to an aging population and absent a national or regional screening programme, the number of prostate cancer diagnosis and deaths is forecast to climb.

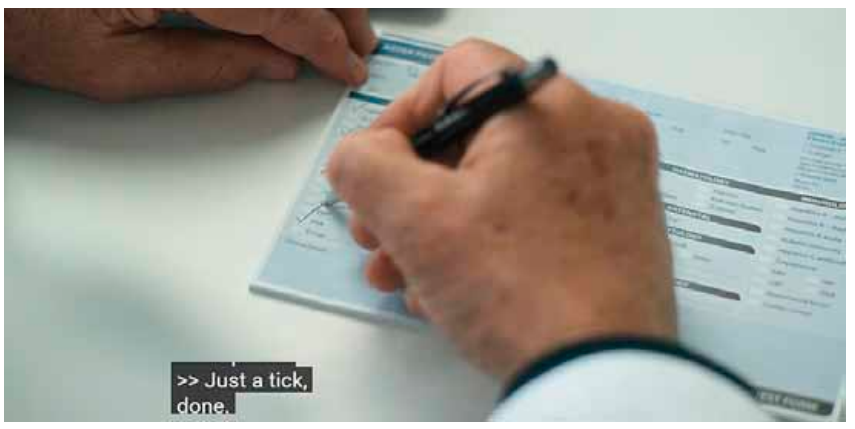
For Dickens, the campaign's success will not be measured by clicks or views alone.

"We want these posts to start conversations in homes, workplaces, rugby clubs, sheds and community groups around the country.

"If you've seen the campaign, don't just like it. Share it. Tag the men you care about. Send it to your mates. A simple message could be the nudge that saves a life."

The Foundation is encouraging New Zealanders to view, share and engage with the campaign across social media platforms:

Watch the campaign video: bit.ly/4BeIlui



Movember, focusing on men's health - "Men are dying too young"

Twenty-two years ago, Movember started with a simple idea: get a few mates to grow moustaches and start a serious conversation about men's health that no one else was having.

Today, that idea has grown into a global men's health movement, funding prevention-focused work across mental health and suicide prevention, prostate cancer and testicular cancer.

At its heart, Movember has always been a grassroots movement, and what unites everyone is simple: men are dying too young, and that's not good.

Movember runs throughout November and focuses on men's health – especially prostate cancer, testicular cancer, mental health, and suicide prevention.

A related community event is the Hīkoi of Hope on 7 November 2026 at Springvale Park (starting at 10am with circuit laps). It focuses on walking together through challenges including suicide, grief, anxiety, depression, family harm, and addiction – themes that overlap strongly with Movember's mental health focus. About 600 people took part in 2025.

How to get involved and celebrate

- Grow a Mo – Sign up at nz.movember.com, create a personal or team "Mo Space", set a fundraising target and share progress. Even a modest mo starts conversations.
- Move 60km – Walk, run, cycle, or otherwise cover 60km over the month (symbolising the roughly 60 men lost to suicide globally each hour). Track it and link donations.
- Host or join a local activity – Trivia nights, sports challenges, workplace shave-downs, sausage sizzles or "Stache Bash" gatherings work well.
- Donate – Support a Whanganui fundraiser.
- Raise awareness –Talk about men's health check-ups (prostate, testicular self-checks), encourage mates to open up, and share resources.



Are you growing a mo for Movember, or hosting an event? Let RCP know!

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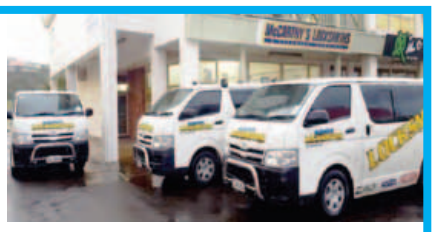



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St Mary's Catholic Church

celebrating 50 years at
47 Guyton Street, Whanganui

THIS SUNDAY NOVEMBER 1



All welcome this Sunday to discover the history of St Mary's Church

Local architect and lifelong parishioner Ron Lamont designed St Mary's Church on Campbell Street – the third Catholic church of that name to stand in Whanganui. This geometric modernist church is about to celebrate its 50th jubilee, bringing together those who have worshipped here over the years and the wider Whanganui community on 1 November.

Father Paddy Kinsella, who played a major role in the design, wanted the building to meet the needs of modern liturgy. He aimed for a space that reflected the post-Vatican II focus on community participation. The Father's brief to Ron Lamont: "To design a structure that would evoke feelings of joy and peace, using the elements of transparency, translucency, opacity, colour, texture and space," was followed faithfully.

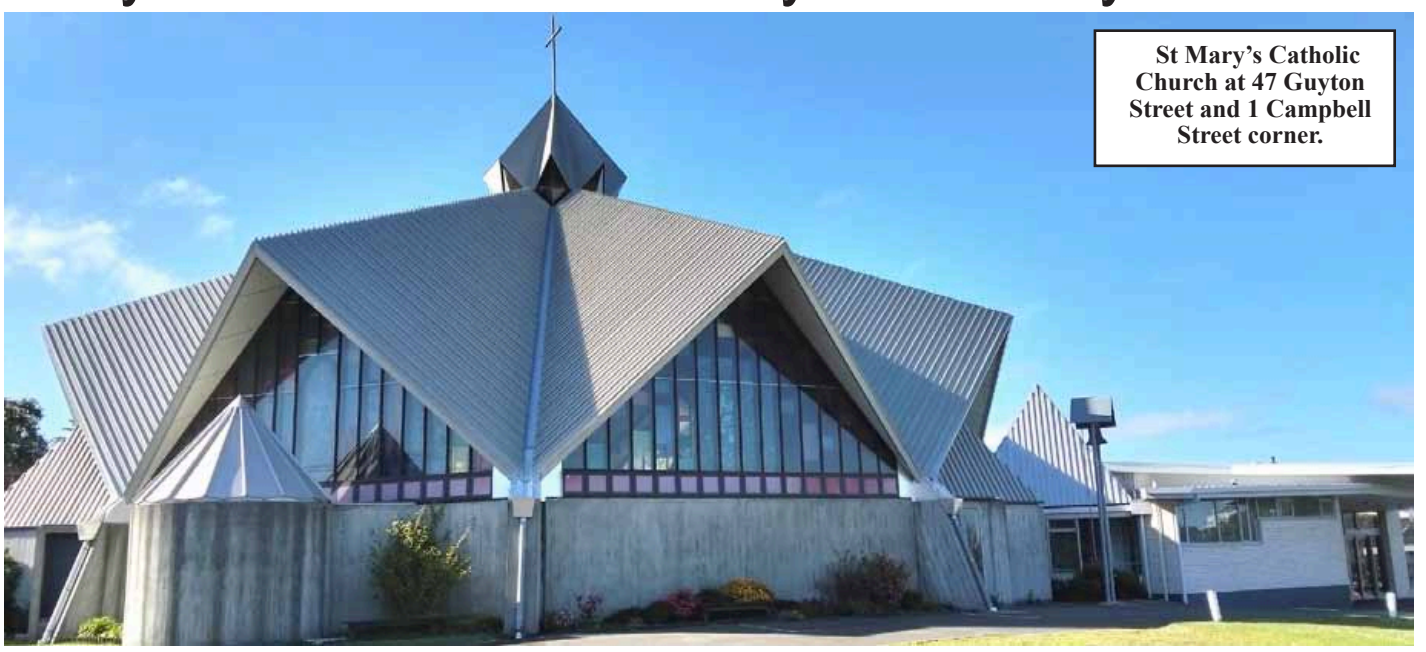
Quoted in the *New Zealand Tablet* at the church's opening blessing, Father Kinsella acknowledged the sacrifices and strong faith of those who came before, saying, "Now it is our turn to take a giant step forward."

In his 2017 Marist eulogy, Kinsella was described as "a builder of churches".

The church's unique and modern design stands as a lasting symbol of looking to the future.

Barbara Vine, a lifelong parishioner at both the Victoria Avenue St Mary's and the current church, and whose sons Dan and Peter were altar boys at the opening ceremony, shares Father Kinsella's outlook. She says Father Kinsella was truly someone who looked to the future.

On a practical level, Barbara adds, "The church on the avenue was closed, and we moved into St Joseph's Hall, which had always been the parish hall." The Hall remained the place of worship from 1973 until the new church opened in 1976.



St Mary's Catholic Church at 47 Guyton Street and 1 Campbell Street corner.

Father David Gledhill, who was parish priest from 1983 to 1990, shared his thoughts on the church, saying "It was very traditional when I arrived, which is to say the parish priest held all the power." Instead, Father Gledhill welcomed the community's feedback and enjoyed working with a good parish council and finance committee.

The one thing that stood out strongly for Father Gledhill was the hospitality he received from the people of Whanganui. It was very much appreciated.

In the spirit of hospitality, in the early 2000s, the parish reviewed the building's future use again. To make the church more usable, Whanganui architect Mark Southcombe was asked to, in his words, "create a new half level between the Church and Hall. This level has new foyers to both church and hall, the parish offices, hospitality, community ministries and support facilities." The additions were officially opened on Sunday 29 March 2009.

Reflecting on the church beyond the bricks and mortar, Mark adds, "That complex has performed at a high level, nurturing the formation of community through easy formation of social connection. There is a warm and strong community in the parish. It's always hard to get away when we visit because there are so many people to talk to, and they feel comfortable to linger in the space."

Parishioner Kate Lynch echoes Mark's thoughts, saying, "The church is a beacon for friendship and faith for all. In the past, the Catholic Church has been perceived by others as kind of a closed shop. But it's a doors-wide-open philosophy. Everyone is welcome."

In terms of its place in New Zealand and local architecture, Mark says, "St Mary's is a distinctive landmark building in Whanganui with national significance. The church design features in several NZ architectural histories.

"It's an important Whanganui Landmark, one of our most significant buildings from the 1970s and one of the most significant buildings by its original architects, Ron Lamont of Earles Lamont and Bycroft.

Ultimately, the church is always about people.



MASS TIMES

Tuesdays	9.30am	Holy Family
	12.05pm	St Mary's
Wednesdays	12.05pm	St Mary's
Thursdays	12.05pm	St Mary's
Fridays	10.30am	Cullinane
	12.05pm	St Mary's
Saturdays (Sunday Vigil)	9.30am	St Mary's
	5.30pm	Holy Family
Sundays	9.30am	St Mary's
	5.30pm	St Mary's

The Catholic Parish of Whanganui
47 Guyton Street, Whanganui

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47 Guyton Street, Whanganui

THIS SUNDAY NOVEMBER 1



Timetable of events for Sunday

The Celebration Day is on 1 November, and everyone is welcome to join any or all of the activities.

At 9.30am, Bishop Peter Cullinane, who played a key role in the 2006 additions, will celebrate Mass.

From 11am to 12pm, there will be 15-minute mini-tours:

- The building's architecture, including the 2006 additions by architect Mark Southcombe.
- The Stations of the Cross: Designed and created by the potter George Kojis. Led by Juliette Kojis.
- Historic stained glass windows: David Scoullar will lead a talk about the 16 historic windows and their background.

While you're in the church, take time to appreciate the carvings by Kiwa Waipara, the "Risen Christ" and the Stations of the Cross, commissioned by Father Gledhill and Father King, and in place since 1983. Self-taught and non-Catholic, he enjoyed the project, carving the pieces from the old pews at the former St Mary's Church on Victoria Avenue.

At 12pm, there will be a potluck lunch. Please bring a plate to share.

Then at 12.45pm, there will be short speeches, cake cutting, and entertainment, including the local band That's Irish, the Filipino community, and a skit by the Indian children.

St Mary's churches through the years

From a small chapel in Taupō Quay in 1851 to the present-day St Mary's Church in the central city and Holy Family Church in Gonville, Whanganui's Catholics have been well provided for with places of worship.

Their first church opened in 1857. Consecrated the Church of the Sacred Heart of Mary, the name was later shortened to St Mary's. Surmounted by a tall slender spire, the building was considered an advance in colonial church design and drew praise.

The *Wanganui Chronicle* commented, "We sincerely congratulate our Catholic friends, the new chapel is indeed a credit. To institute any comparison between this and other places of worship in Wanganui would be simply absurd."

In 1877, this church was replaced by a new, multi-spired timber one in Victoria Ave which was to serve for nearly 100 years until it began to show signs of decay and was demolished in 1973. The general feeling was that St Mary's no longer needed to occupy a place on the city's top shopping block and a new site was chosen nearby on church-owned land in Guyton St.



This St Mary's Church stood on Victoria Ave for nearly 100 years.

Opened 50 years ago – on October 30 1976 – the current St Mary's, with its unique octagonal shape, is recognised as an impressive house of worship that continues to win acclaim from visitors from afar.

Stained glass windows are magnificent



Church windows reflect a rich history.

Stained glass is a universally accepted form of church decoration and has been used since early times as a reinforcement of church teachings. The mainly illiterate laity of times past were exhorted to walk around and read the windows.

An outstanding feature of St Mary's Church are the 25 beautiful stained glass windows. All are from the old St Mary's which was demolished in 1973. In total, 19 were made by the English firm of Atkinson Brothers in Newcastle on Tyne, four are French and two (Christ and Mary) were made at the Bavarian Glass Works in Munich, Germany.

The windows of the greatest artistic and historical significance are the four earliest ones of St Patrick, St Joseph, St Clare and Mary and Child Jesus which were fitted in the old St Mary's as secondhand windows and are thought to be from a French studio in Lyons.

They date between 1875 and 1877 and contain significant features such as stylisation of the figures and the treatment of the borders and background. They are imitations of 13th century French grisaille stained glass which is clear glass enriched by painted pattern, a method developed in the 13th century.

To have so many stained glass windows in a New Zealand provincial church was rare, according to the late Brendan O'Shea who restored them over 12 years before installing them in the new church in Guyton Street. There was a colossal amount of handwork involving in making them, he said, and many colours were difficult and expensive to produce.

Given their significance, he was disappointed that the windows' history had not been preserved with more clarity but he felt his time had been "well spent to retain these beautiful links with our past and our Christian heritage".

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Hīkoi of Hope

Next Saturday, November 7, 10am-11am
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Hīkoi of Hope
no one walks alone

No one walks alone/Hīkoi tahi tātou

Hīkoi of Hope is back for 2026 and will sit alongside Whānau Ora Day at Springvale Park. The key message for the hīkoi is: you are not alone. The community are invited to walk laps together around Springvale Park, challenging tough times and celebrating the wins people have made towards banishing addiction, family harm, and finding support for mental health issues. It's about walking together for a better future.

Mahanga Williams, the event organiser, says, "The event is open to everyone. You can walk as much or as little as you like. It's a safe space."

There will be water stations around the course and free kai in the form of a BBQ after the Hīkoi, which finishes at 11am.

Afterwards, Hīkoi participants are invited to listen to guest speakers.

Hīkoi of Hope has an inclusive kaupapa (purpose) that recognises, as part of its message, the reduction of family violence and all the people it impacts.

Newly appointed Violence Intervention network coordinator at Jigsaw, Jo Voice, will receive the mauri for her new role from Mahanga Williams – a fitting gesture for the Hīkoi of Hope event.

In te ao Māori, handing mauri to another formally transfers the living spiritual essence, life force, responsibility and continuity of that kaupapa.

Jo Voice says, "As the network coordinator, I will be presented with the collaborative agreement that sits within the network, the network being the social service agencies and others.

"It's about acknowledging that the sector exists, that we are committed to a family violence-free Whanganui, and that, as part of belonging to the network, everyone signs that collaborative agreement. So my job will be to take it from the hīkoi out to the network to get their input, and tautoko (support)."

Key details

- Date: Saturday, 7 November 2026 (election day)
- Time: Starts at 10am with a health and safety briefing, participants walk circuit laps of the sports field until 11am

Whānau Ora Day will bring together organisations from across Whanganui at Springvale Park, where they'll chat with the public and share how they can awhi (help) whānau. There will also be entertainment throughout the event, which runs until 2pm.

A voting booth will be available on the day!

A voting booth will be available on the day so you can *hīkoi* your way over to the voting booth if you haven't yet cast your vote.

Walk together. Have your say. Make your vote count!





Mahanga Williams at last year's march.

Last year's Hīkoi of Hope march against violence.

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EDUCATION & ENROLMENTS 2027

Enrolling and preparing your child for school

When should I enrol my child to go to school?

Your child can start school or kura in New Zealand between age five and six. All children must be enrolled at school by their sixth birthday.

When your child has started at school or kura, they must go to school every day. This is a change from the earlier rule, where regular attendance was required only from age six.

Enrolling early helps the school or kura with their planning. As soon as you've decided on a school or kura get in touch with them to enrol your child, arrange a time for your child to start and arrange some visits to get your child used to school or kura.

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.

How can I help my child get ready for school?

There are lots of things you can do.

Get your child used to the school or kura

Here are some ideas to help your child become familiar with the school or kura:

* visit the school or kura with your child
* get the principal and teacher to meet your child
* arrange some settling in visits with their teacher before their first day
* have a play at the school in the weekend - run around, climb on the playground equipment, kick a ball on the field
* Talk to the teacher about your child
* When teachers know children well they are better able to support their learning. Talk to the teacher and let them know things like:
  - if your child has any special health needs, and what to do
  - what your child likes to do, what they are good at and what makes them happy
  - after-school plans and who picks up your child when you can't
  - anything that might affect how your child is feeling.

The teacher might also appreciate you sharing your child's portfolio or profile book from their ECE service or Kōhanga Reo. This will give the teacher valuable information about your child's learning, and can also link up your child's early childhood, home and school or kura experiences.

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EDUCATION & ENROLMENTS 2027

A year of milestones for YMCA Central's Pakohe Alternative Education

It's been a year of milestones for YMCA Central's Pakohe Alternative Education, a youth re-engagement programme in Whanganui. These include the move to its new facility, Whare O Pakohe, on Fox Road in May; the recent opening of another education space at the Whanganui Cricket Clubrooms at Victoria Park; and last week's 10th birthday celebrations.

Students, the Pakohe team of six, past kaimahi and students, the YMCA Central CEO and his team from Wellington, and representatives from supporting organisations Supp and Te Oranganui came together to celebrate the programme's 10th anniversary. The programme is making a real difference to young people in the Whanganui community, supporting up to 35 secondary school-aged youth who are disengaged from the mainstream school system.

It's a holistic programme that includes social support, physical activity, art, culture, cooking and Te Ao Māori.

Bronwyn Joseph, Pakohe's Kaiwhakahaere Hōtaka | Programme Manager, said about the event, "It is about celebrating 10 years of people, relationships, challenges, growth, second chances, third chances, fourth chances, tenth chances, and creating opportunities. A whakataukī (proverb) sits at the heart of what we do here at Pakohe: "Maa te huruhuru ka rere te manu: adorn the bird with feathers so it may fly."

"And that is exactly what we strive to do at Pakohe: give our taiohi (youth) the knowledge, experiences, confidence, support, and belief they need to spread their wings and soar."

Bronwyn, who has been with the YMCA alternative programme since 2012 before it rebranded as Pakohe Alternative Education, saw firsthand how attitudes towards youth have changed for the better when the mainstream education system isn't a good fit.

"Back then, there were a lot of negative thoughts around being an alternative programme. People thought they were just naughty kids – kick them out of the school, put them in that programme, keep them busy, off the street and out of trouble."

In 2016, Bronwyn and her two colleagues, Lee Ashford and Pauline Hiroti, believed it shouldn't be that way.

"These young people need to feel like they belong, that this is their space, and grow from that. So when we're talking about the rebranding, we wanted a name with meaning.

"When we look at our young people, we see strength, we see resilience, we see purpose, we see opportunity. We mentioned Pakohe and chose it as the programme name. It's a Whanganui river stone, known for its durability and strength. One of the, I guess, characteristics that was useful was for tools, because of that strength."

Bronwyn and her team's approach isn't just working – it is excelling. Andy Savage, manager of YMCA Central Whanganui, is incredibly proud of the team and the students, saying, "Nationally, our results for getting students back on track for this programme are better than the national average."

Once students are ready, they have the option to go on to another Whanganui Y Education on Parson Street, where Andy says they can complete NCEA levels one and two.

If students want to return to mainstream schools or other further training options or employment, Pakohe also provides support to make that happen.

Anthony de Rose, chief executive of YMCA Central Inc, expressed his gratitude for the Pakohe team, saying, "At the heart of the YMCA is our belief that every young person has potential. Pakohe brings this to life by creating an environment where rangatahi can build trust, develop confidence, make meaningful connections and gain new skills.

In 2025, 70 percent of our rangatahi graduated with a clear transition plan for their next steps into education, training or employment. This reflects the dedication and commitment of our Pakohe team, who have supported hundreds of young people in Whanganui over the years. It is a wonderful milestone to celebrate with our team, partners and the wider community."



(L-R): Alan Davis, Robbie Loozekoot (past Kaimahi), Kingston Moeke (past student), Bronwyn Joseph, Dayna-Mae (past student), Campbell Moeke (past student).

Teach your child the practical skills they'll need at school

Before your child starts school, it's helpful if they can:

* do up their shoes
* put on and take off their coats
* go to the toilet and wash their hands
* blow their nose
* unpack and hang up their bags where they are told
* recognise when they are thirsty and get a drink of water
* ask for things they need.
* Help them get ready to learn

They may find it easier to participate in the class if they:

* can sit on a chair at a table for a short time to complete an activity
* are comfortable being away from you
* know how to take turns, and wait for things
* know the names of colours
* know the letters of the alphabet
* know the numbers 1 to 9
* can hold a pencil correctly and use scissors
* can write their name
* are able to hold a picture book and turn the pages carefully.



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MELBOURNE CUP

Tuesday 3 November, 5pm (NZ time)

Trio of horses from Irish trainer are early cup favourites

An Irish trainer who has twice won the race previously has a strong hand with his gallopers in this year's Lexus Melbourne Cup.

A trio of Joseph O'Brien's gallopers head the early cup odds. Defiantly is the outright early favourite while the other contenders from the O'Brien barn are Trustyourinstinct and James J Braddock.

The $10 million race is at Flemington on Tuesday, November 3.

Defiantly is a French-bred four-year -old who won automatic entry for the cup with an emphatic win over ground in France.

The gelding showed strong staying ability in his Melbourne Cup-qualifying win, leading and then running away from his rivals to score by 5.5 lengths.

Defiantly is a half-brother to two gallopers who have already made an impact as stayers in Australia, Buckaroo and Middle Earth.

Trustyourinstinct is a six-year-old who has won at group level at the Curragh, while James J Braddock, a three-year-old carrying the name of a former world boxing champion, has already won more than $500,000.

A New Zealand-trained galloper, Manzor Blue, has been campaigning in Australia in a bid to make



the field for the cup.

Manzor Blue will run the distance if it gets a start in the famous event. It is a Wellington Cup winner, reviving memories of Kiwi, who won a Wellington Cup before following up with victory in the big race at Flemington.

One of two fallers in the Caulfield Cup, last year's Melbourne Cup winner Half Yours, may not have enough time to recover for this year's edition at Flemington.

Sadly, the genuine Matamata stayer, Ohope Wins, also fell in the Caulfield Cup and was put down.

Whole Cup carnival enthrals Duncan

Melbourne Cup day is a special day in the life of Whanganui's Duncan Matthews.

His attachment to the day is such that he is a member of the Victoria Racing Club.

He spent 27 years in Melbourne before returning to Whanganui and his enjoyment of racing occupies him on both sides of the Tasman.

He is a long-serving committee member of the Wanganui Jockey Club.

While the Melbourne Cup day – the first Tuesday in November – enthralls Duncan, he embraces the cup carnival to include Derby Day (Day One) and Oaks Day (Day Three).

Duncan said Melbourne folk, on what is a public holiday in the city, acted similarly in recognising the day, for example going to the TAB and perhaps having a barbecue before the event.

Those going to the racecourse boarded packed and regular trains to Flemington on the big day.

People dressed up for the occasion and, with thousands attending, the day provided a memorable spectacle and an atmosphere.

It was the people in the industry and the atmosphere that attracted him to racing, Duncan said.

The Wanganui Jockey Club did not have the resources or the population of a metropolitan club but tried to provide the public with a spectacle and a carnival atmosphere for its meetings.

In the last couple of years, the Wanganui Club had provided two Christmas at the Races small meetings, and these had been so popular they had been booked out.

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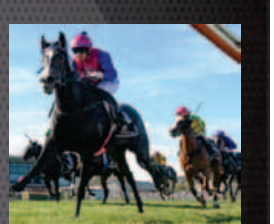

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'Sir El Tom' learnt piano during lockdown to combat alcoholism



Sir El Tom: The Elton John Show, which has played at Carnegie Hall and London's West End, plays on Monday 9 November at 8pm at St James Theatre in Wellington: six musicians, two hours, every note sung and played live, with costumes recreated down to the glasses.

The man at the piano is Tom Cridland. He taught himself the piano in lockdown at 30 to get sober, playing Elton's songs because they were the ones he loved.

RCP caught up with Tom in Melbourne before their Australian gig, and he explained,

"I'd got sober in 2017, but during the lockdown I was trying to justify that it would be all right to start drinking again." But he chose instead to put his energy into learning the piano. "I never learned a melodic instrument, and I thought that would be such an amazing thing to be able to do – just play piano or guitar or anything.

"I thought it was too late for me; life was over."

Three years later, he was on stage at Carnegie Hall.

He has been to more than a hundred of Elton's concerts as the guest of Elton's drummer, Nigel Olsson, who has since played with the band three times. He has also worked with Sir Elton on Nigel's new album.

Tom and the other four band members, who are great mates, love the energy of live performances. Tom describes the buzz, and it beats drinking: "It's seriously special to play everything 100% live. There's nothing like it. It's – it's the biggest thrill in the world."

Some moments in the show are pure *Saturday Night's Alright for Fighting* – with the flamboyance and energy cranked up a notch and the costumes getting ever more outlandish.

"We'll play all the hits, but we'll also play them with a lot of attention to detail, splicing in different iconic sections from the way Elton's played them because all of these songs have had nine lives."

The band love it when the audience gets on their feet and dances; it adds to the energy.

RCP have two double passes to give away for the Wellington performance. ***As a special offer for RCP readers, you can book tickets on the Ticketmaster website using the code SUPERGOLD to get 30 per cent off each ticket.*** Visit www.ticketmaster.co.nz/sir-el-tom-tickets/artist/3108116

TICKET GIVEAWAY

To enter the competition to win one of two double passes, email rivercitypress@xtra.co.nz with El Tom in the subject line, and include a daytime phone number, name, and address in the body of the email. The competition closes on Monday 2 November at 5pm. This offer is for Whanganui residents only.

Volunteers needed urgently

Urgent Job Vacancies – Volunteer Whanganui

- Maara Kai/Food Garden Team Member
- Casual Receptionist
- Client Liaison Assistant
- Treasurer
- Secretary
- Prison Programme Support Person
- Client Liaison Assistant
- Swimming Coach
- Assistant Swimming Coach
- Club Secretary/ Admin Support
- Club Treasurer
- Grants Officer
- Bureau Interviewer
- Book Sale Assistant
- Library Staff
- Shop Assistant, Whanganui East
- Online Friend
- Community Centre/Library Assistant
- Fundraiser Coordinator
- Meals on Wheels Drivers
- Mobile Blood Drive Support Assistant

If you are interested in any of these volunteer positions, please call or come and see us at Room 110, 60 Ridgway Street, Community House, "The old post office building". Opening hours: Monday – Thursday 9am–4pm. Ph (06) 3479430 Email: whanganuivolunteercentre@xtra.co.nz or visit our website for all our current positions: volunteerwhanganui.org.nz

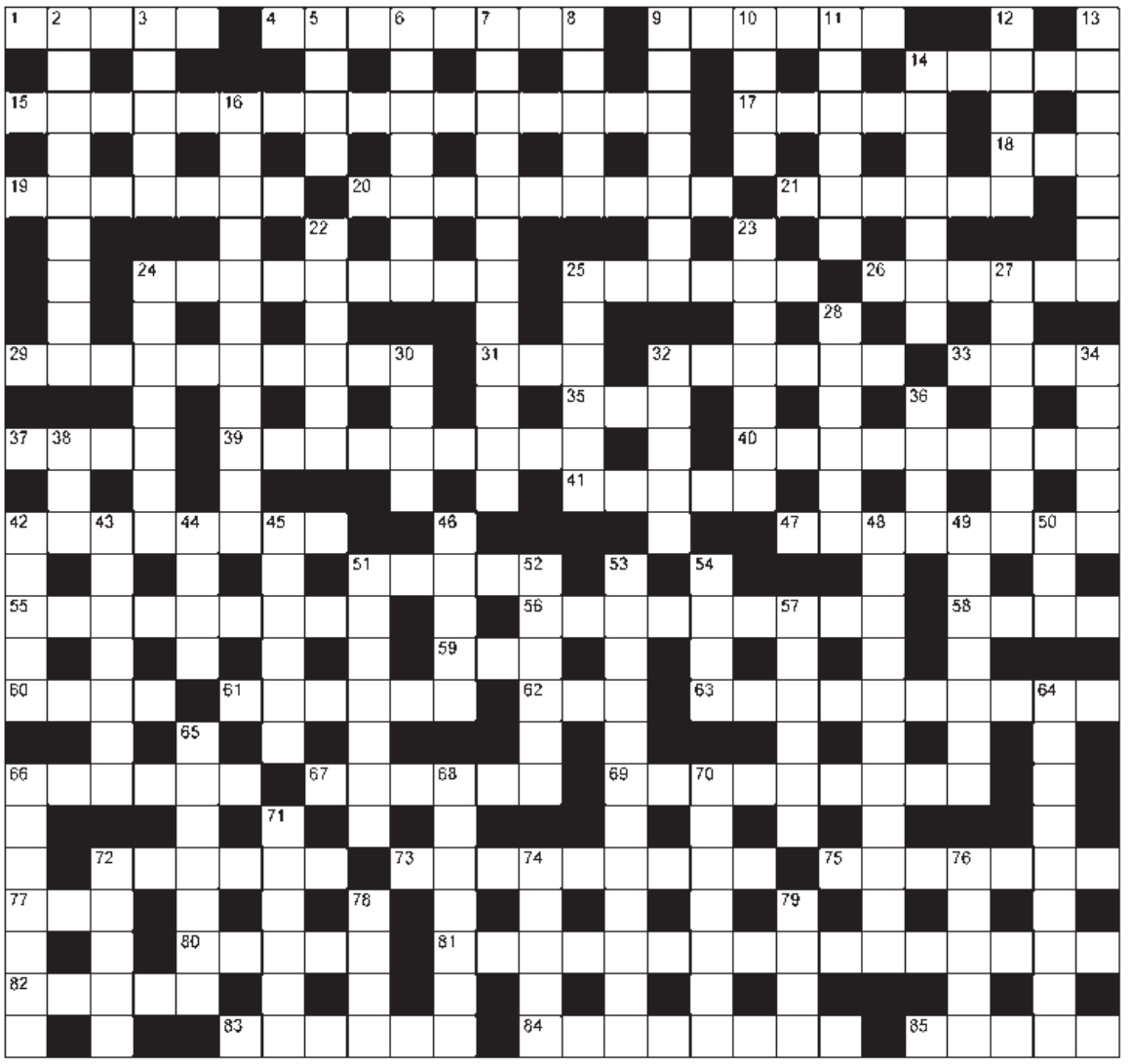
Jumbo crossword

ACROSS

1 Divide into two (5)
4 Joined on (8)
9 Six-legged creature (6)
14 Iron alloy (5)
15 Mentally sharp (5,2,3,6)
17 Muscle seizure (5)
18 Beverage (3)
19 Perfect; blissfully peaceful (7)
20 Steadily recurring (9)
21 Forever (6)
24 Special right (9)
25 Abrupt (6)
26 Spanish Mrs (6)
29 Patron (10)
31 Frozen water (3)
32 Mutual understanding (6)
33 Gala (4)
35 Objective (3)
37 Biting insect (4)
39 In high dudgeon (9)
40 Weighing (9)
41 Vista (5)
42 Conversation (8)
47 Made bigger (8)
51 As above (5)
55 Meddle (9)
56 Advertising (9)
58 Appear (4)
59 Devour (3)
60 Mark correct (4)
61 Stringed instrument (6)
62 Climbing plant (3)
63 Intolerance of delays (10)
66 Detective (6)
67 Co-occurrence (6)
69 Remember (9)
72 Illicit relationship (6)
73 Able (9)
75 Lit (7)
77 Speck (3)
80 World-weariness (5)
81 Acting forcefully or hastily without thought (4,1,4,2,1,4)
82 Nominated (5)
83 Curved (6)
84 Her toast (anag)(8)
85 Braces (5)

DOWN

2 Copious supply (9)
3 Of the voice (5)
5 Ballerina's skirt (4)
6 Breathtaking (7)
7 Existing only as an idea or concept (12)
8 Empty (5)
9 Cold country (7)
10 Fire (4)
11 Small bed (6)
12 Small impressions (5)
13 Lucerne (7)
14 Harpooned (7)
16 Inventing (11)
22 Drooped (6)
23 Greet (7)
24 Prove more powerful (7)
25 Perspires (6)
27 Complying with (7)
28 Confer holy orders on (6)
30 Fury (4)
32 Cautionary colour (5)
34 Bordered (5)
36 Large feline (4)
38 Garland (3)
42 Go aimlessly (5)
43 Object (7)
44 Evil giant (4)
45 Of help (6)
46 Guide (5)
48 Boxing division (11)
49 Think highly of (7)
50 Watch (3)
51 Fate (7)
52 Alternative (6)
53 Your elephant (anag)(12)
54 Mongolian desert (4)
57 Graceful antelope (6)
64 Woodwork (9)
65 Crammed full (7)
66 Learner (7)
68 Ruined (7)
70 Agrees (7)
71 Meal (6)
72 Tiny particles (5)
74 Fire prod (5)
76 Metal bar (5)
78 Lofty (4)
79 Begging request (4)





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SIMON SHUKER'S CODE-CRACKER Extra 931

EACH number in our Code-Cracker grid represents a different letter of the alphabet. For example, today 7 represents C, so fill in C every time the figure 7 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*

1	■	2	■	3	■	4	■	1	■	5	■	6
7	3	4	1	8	■	9	3	10	8	3	10	11
12	■	3	■	3	■	1	■	13	■	14	■	15
1	16	17	12	6	8	1	■	6	18	1	2	1
7	■	17	■	4	■	■	■	19	■	■	20	■
4	21	12	22	■	21	17	17	1	21	2	1	2
3	■	1	■	6	■	3	■	8	■	23	■	20
7	6	8	3	24	3	1	8	■	5	20	25	2
■	21	■	■	24	■	■	■	15	■	21	■	17
11	15	6	9	12	■	18	15	21	25	18	12	1
21	■	20	■	6	■	20	■	26	■	18	■	10
14	3	2	20	21	12	2	■	6	3	12	1	8
1	■	4	■	8	■	5	■	15	■	1	■	2

1	14
2	15
3	16
4	17
5	18
6	19
7 C	20
8	21
9	22
10	23
11	24
12	25
13	26

© Simon Shuker www.codecracker.co.nz

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

Sudoku

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

EASY

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

Previous solution

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

Previous solution

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

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

Previous crossword solution

ACROSS: 1 Marsh, 4 Cool as a cucumber, 14 Chile, 15 Grove, 16 Leprechaun, 17 Offer, 19 Elk, 20 Microbe, 21 Sculpture, 22 Crocus, 25 Scholarly, 27 Pulpit, 28 Dearth, 33 Enterprise, 35 Air, 36 Cherub, 37 Spiv, 39 Fur, 41 Hairpin, 42 Gateau, 43 Advancing, 44 Medal, 45 Attorney, 50 Me, 51 Typeface, 55 Inlay, 58 Reprimand, 59 Staple, 60 Operate, 61 Tot, 63 Wick, 64 Wealth, 65 Elf, 66 Withdrawal, 68 Walrus, 69 Bitchy, 71 Stammered, 76 Send-up, 77 Tenacious, 79 Ominous, 81 Tip, 84 Cater, 85 Implicated, 86 Trait, 87 Eerie, 88 Entente cordiale, 89 Vents.

DOWN: 2 Afraid, 3 Sever, 5 Oxen, 6 Lyrical, 7 Sickly, 8 Craft, 9 Control, 10 Moot, 11 Effort, 12 Tiles, 13 Peckish, 14 Cracker, 18 Absorption, 23 Mania, 24 Liberal, 26 Cheerio, 27 Perfume, 29 Replica, 30 Infant, 31 Fated, 32 Survey, 34 Edam, 36 Crude, 38 Vague, 40 Ante, 45 Arrow, 46 Typical, 47 Raid, 48 Enamel, 49 Sloth, 50 Mystery, 52 Pipe dreams, 53 Forgave, 54 Catnap, 55 Idyllic, 56 Gaffe, 57 Claw, 62 Stamp, 67 Furnace, 68 Written, 70 Chemist, 72 Tsunami, 73 Mutton, 74 Tidier, 75 Quaint, 76 Spurn, 78 Aspic, 80 Nurse, 82 Free, 83 Feel.

5x5

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

WHAT'S ON IN THE COMMUNITY

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.

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.

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 06-345-4717, 10–3pm weekdays.

Crafters Market Whanganui
62 Dublin Street, Seventh Day Adventist Church Hall, Sunday 1st November, from 9am to 2pm. Crafts, face painting, food. Everyone welcome.

Friends of Castlecliff Coast Care
Monday, 2nd November at 9.30am. Meet at Castlecliff beach domain, Bamber St end of Seafront Rd. Look out for our flag. We will be removing invasive lupins. All tools are provided, just bring a pair of gardening gloves. A cuppa and home baking provided once finished. Keep an eye on our facebook page for updates.

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.

Jigsaw Exchange
This month's jigsaw exchange is this Saturday 31st October at the Central Baptist Church Hall on Wicksteed Street from 9.30am until 11am. Hundreds of puzzles to choose from. Donations always appreciated. Contact Bill 027-912-5835.

Matarawa Community Church
We have a service at 11am on Sunday 1st November. Do join us for a warm welcome, inspiring address and a beautiful country environment.

What's On in the Community 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.

Repair Cafe Whanganui
Saturday 31 October. Harrison St Community Church Hall, opposite 64 Liverpool St, 11am to 12.30pm. Metal, wooden & hard plastic items; leather goods; clothing & book repairs; soft toys; costume jewellery; ceramics; small electrical goods; knife/tool sharpening; musical instruments & sound equipment. Homemade baking & repairs for cash donation. Children welcome. Ph 021-08900-798. Email whanganuirepaircafe@gmail.com

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 4pm–6pm, Wednesday 9am–11am, Thursday 6pm–8pm. To have a go – beginners must register via email rivercitypickleballnz@gmail.com or email to find out more about beginners sessions

Robert Burns Club Wanganui – AGM
Everyone is welcome to attend the Annual General Meeting of the Wanganui Robert Burns Club on Sunday 15 November at 2pm at the St Andrews Highland Pipe Band Hall, 1E Bell Street. Following the meeting there will be a screening of the 2026 Edinburgh Tattoo. Refreshments are provided. Queries to burnsclub.wgi@gmail.com

Schola Sacra Choir Christmas concert
featuring Christmas carols plus Bach *Magnificat*. Organist Douglas Mews with guest soloists. 2.30pm, Saturday 5th December in St Peter's Church, 71 Koromiko Rd, Gonville. Tickets at the door or from choir members. $25, $20, U-18 free.

Whanganui Film Society
Monday 2 November 7pm: RUN LOLA RUN (1998, M violence & offensive language) Lola races against time across Berlin in Tom Tykwer's kinetic, pulse-pounding thriller. 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 Opera Week – 3rd to 17th January
Be part of the celebrations and book front row seats 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

Whanganui East School brings the story of Tūtaeporoporo to life



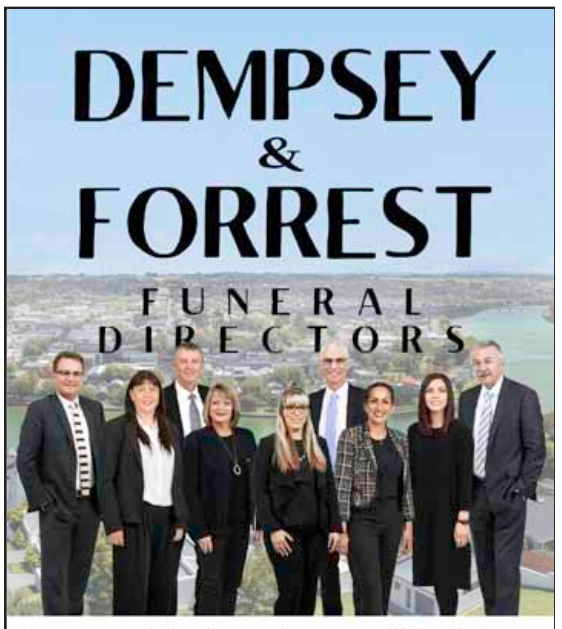
At the end of last term, the Whanganui East School community gathered to celebrate ten weeks of creativity, teamwork and local history with their full-school production of *Tūtaeporoporo*.

The production was a whole-school effort, with every single student taking part. In the weeks leading up to showtime, classrooms transformed into creative hubs where children designed and crafted their own costumes, masks and props. On the night, every student had their chance to experience being in the limelight, showcasing their hard work in front of an appreciative audience of whānau and friends.

Great collaboration across all year levels and teaching staff allowed for a diverse range of scenes. Highlights included the Tūī teams rendition of *Baby Shark* and *One day a Taniwha*, with their bold and colourful masks. Room 1 and 2's energetic dance performance to "How Bad Can I Be?" from *The Lorax*, which brought plenty of fun to the stage. In contrast, the senior students presented a powerful narrative set at Pūtiki Pā, depicting the arrival of Te Ao Kehu, the famous taniwha slayer from Taranaki.

A production of this scale relies heavily on community support, and the school extends its heartfelt thanks to everyone who helped bring the show together. Whanganui Girls' College generously opened their doors, providing the hall, stage, and facilities, while Springvale Garden Centre loaned trees and plants to give the stage scenery an authentic, natural feel. Special thanks also go to Whaea Lynnaire for working with the Kapa Haka group to deliver strong waiata, Mr Kinnaird for providing the beautifully crafted wooden toki, taonga and taiaha, and Mr Ramage for managing the stage lighting throughout the performance.

The production was a wonderful celebration of student talent, culture and community spirit – a fitting reward for ten weeks of dedicated effort by students, staff and supporters alike.



A chance for grieving families to remember a child who has died

Not only is this New Zealand's Election Day, but it is a chance for grieving families to remember a child who has died – whether as a baby born sleeping, a child of any age including adult children, who passed through illness, accident, suicide, murder – recently or long ago. All are invited to join us at Aramoho Cemetery on Saturday 7 November at 10am.

We are The Compassionate Friends Whanganui: Bereaved Parents Grief Support. We do not walk alone, and we do not forget our children or brothers and sisters.

We will be placing mementoes at the two trees sheltering the Children's Area and the Stillborn Area of Aramoho Cemetery.

Bring Christmas tree decorations, wind chimes, fresh flower petals or any special memento of your loved one. Your child may not rest at Aramoho but this is a special place to remember them.

Directions:

Take the first left at the Cemetery, McNeill Street.

Children's Area – Block P (take 3rd right at Block O, then to Block P).

Stillborn Area – turn into McNeill Street, go to the far end and turn left.

By visiting these places where many of our children rest, we can leave something of beauty and peace there.

Bereaved parents, siblings and family have a hole in their lives forever, felt especially at Christmas.

You need not walk alone.

Join us later at The Yellow House Café, Dublin Street, at 11am for our regular Coffee Care and Chat when we will share about coping with Christmas and holidays when there is one loved child missing at the table.

Don't forget to vote.

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.

FRUIT & PRODUCE

FRESH vegetables available, open Thursdays, Fridays. Laugeson's Gardens, Westmere Road.



Sadly passed away recently...

Graeme Drayton James FOSTER
on 22 October 2026, aged 87 years.

Donald George (Don) FRANCOIS
on 26 October 2026, aged 83 years.

Adrianne (Anne) Marie HODSON (nee Clemow)
on 22 October 2026, aged 84 years.

Gilbert Leslie JELLYMAN
on 23 October 2026, aged 71 years.

John MacFATER
on 23 October 2026, aged 86 years.

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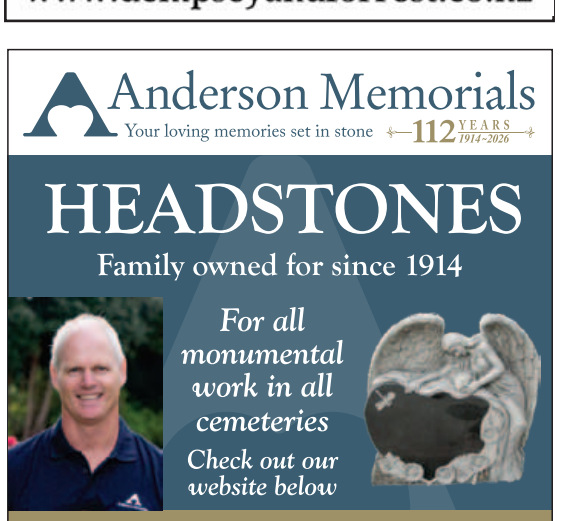



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SITUATIONS VACANT

TE KAUNIHERA Ā-ROHE O Whanganui DISTRICT COUNCIL

Founding Trustee of Whanganui's New Independent Housing Entity

Whanganui District Council is taking a long-term view on housing. The proposed establishment of an independent, accountable housing entity reflects our vision for a Whanganui where affordable homes are within reach for everyone and where a sense of community and connection flourish. Working in collaboration with mana whenua and grounded in local values, this entity will grow housing options, connect residents with the support they need, and stand as a lasting commitment to Whanganui's future.

We are now seeking founding trustees with big ambition for the proposed entity in this founding governance role. As a Trustee, you will help shape the governance structure, set the strategic direction, and build the credibility, financial structure and developer partnerships the entity needs to compete for funding, land and delivery partners - including a founding partnership with mana whenua.

Three national reforms are landing at once: Simplifying Local Government, planning and infrastructure financing changes through RMA reform, and changes to social housing eligibility. Whanganui is choosing to act with ambition while this shift is occurring rather than wait for it to settle and needs roughly 2,000 additional affordable homes over the next decade against a current build rate of around 90 per year.

Key responsibilities include:

- Helping establish the entity's founding governance structure and culture.
- Building the credibility, financial structure and partnerships needed to secure funding and flexible financing in a competitive environment.
- Recognising and developing commercial opportunities - including partnerships with developers - that build the entity's pipeline and balance sheet.
- Stewarding the founding partnerships with mana whenua and upholding Te Tiriti o Waitangi obligations.
- Working alongside Council, community housing providers, faith and social sector partners, and central government agencies including the Ministry of Social Development and Kāinga Ora.
- Operating entirely independently of Council while remaining accountable to the community it serves.

The founding board will need a mix of:

- Governance experience in a complex, regulated or capital-intensive environment.
- Financial and risk judgement suited to a newly established, growth-stage entity.
- Commercial acumen - the ability to recognise and develop opportunities, including partnerships with developers, and turn them into a viable pipeline.
- An authentic understanding of, and commitment to, partnership with mana whenua.
- Housing, property, social service or community development expertise.
- Comfort with genuine complexity - building an entity's credibility and financial model while the policy ground underneath it is still moving.

This is a long-term commitment to affordable homes and strong communities - and a rare opportunity to build a commercially ambitious entity from the ground up, with the scale and mandate to make a lasting difference.

To apply: Please email your CV and covering letter to housingtrustee@whanganui.govt.nz

Applications close: Friday 13th November 2026

For further enquiries, contact: rosemary.fletcher@whanganui.govt.nz

You can find more information on the entity here:
https://www.whanganui.govt.nz/Community-and-Places/Housing/Establishing-a-housing-trust

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Nominate someone you think is deserving of our **Bouquet of the Week!**

Email or facebook message us with your nomination and reason why they deserve to win!

email: rivercitypress@xtra.co.nz
facebook: River City Press Wanganui



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PUBLIC NOTICES

WHANGANUI ANGLICANS

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ANNUAL PARISH FAIR & PLANT SALE

NOVEMBER 7th
10am-1pm New Time
CHRIST CHURCH
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Saturday 31 October

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Diana's Daffodils

HERBICIDE APPLICATION
Gordon Park Scenic Reserve

Please be aware that on or after 9th November 2026 the Friends of Gordon Park Trust intend to have a contractor applying the herbicide Haloxyfop for grass weed (primarily Veldt grass and Yorkshire fog) control within the forest area. This work is to protect rare native ground cover plants.

Haloxyfop will also be applied in the northern and western, previously grazed areas, of the Reserve where a restoration planting project is underway. This work is to release planted trees and shrubs from ingrowth of pasture grasses.

All spraying will be undertaken by a Growsafe licensed operator using a low pressure Knapsack sprayer.

Please take note of warnings and cautions that will be posted at the entrances to the reserve and in particular ensure that children or dogs do not leave the walking track or marked areas and enter the treated areas until warnings are removed. Exposure to this herbicide before it dries may cause skin and/or eye irritation.

Bill Fleury
Chair
Friends of Gordon Park Trust.

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 and the Wanganui Water Ski Club advise that the boating area will be closed from **dawn to 5pm Sunday 8th November** for the **Club Open Day**

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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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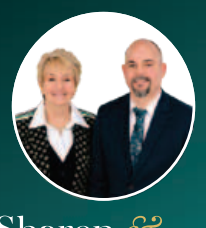

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10 Leicester Street	BEO	$655,000	12.00 - 12.45pm
12 Downes Avenue	NP	$649,000	1.00 - 1.30pm
32 Purnell Street	NP	$850,000	2.00 - 2.30pm
60 Marybank Road	NEG	$699,000	3.00 - 3.30pm

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SPORTS NEWS

Steelform Whanganui rugby team are Lochore Cup champions



Steelform Whanganui Rugby team celebrating their title last Sunday.

By Jared Smith

Steelform Whanganui are the Lochore Cup champions for the third time in the 20-year history of the Hilux Heartland Championship after a grandstand finish against South Canterbury on Sunday, October 17.

Scoring two tries inside the last five minutes, including deep in "injury" time, Whanganui defeated the Cantabrians for the first time since 2018 to complete a remarkable fortnight of performances.

Knowing they were already out of contention for the Top 4 and the Meads Cup playoffs by Week 7, Whanganui defeated points table leaders King Country 31–21 – with their neighbours going on to win the Meads Cup last Saturday – then won the Lochore Cup semifinal in extra time over Horowhenua-Kapiti 39-38, before travelling to Timaru to upend South Canterbury 43–42.

Centre Alekesio Vakarorogo produced an amazing solo try starting inside his own 22m, beating five defenders on the way to his 56th Heartland try in 56 Heartland games – the all-time record – having scored 11 this season, tied for best with Thames Valley's Andrew Malua.

Hooker Jack Yarrall, who stepped into the big shoes of the injured Alesana Tofa, scored two tries off attacking drives from his pack, finishing as Whanganui's top forwards try-scorer with seven.

First-five Tevita Asi, one of four imports from Manawatu and Taranaki, was away with a few key goal kicks, but he got the one that mattered – converting straight alongside the posts after scoring the winning try off the final play after Whanganui attacked from their final scrum.

Halfback Lindsay Horrocks got the final say in his classic rivalry with South Canterbury scrumhalf Willie Wright, who still scored 21 points before coming off injured, while Whanganui's best player was unquestionably No8 Ekenasio Fiso, who overcame an unfair yellow card to score the 76th minute try to give his team a chance.

Exclusive Scoreboard:

Whanganui 43 (Jack Yarrall 2, Shay Smith-Luond, Jonty Bird, Alekesio Vakarorogo, Ekenasio Fiso, Tevita Asi tries; Asi 4 con) bt South Canterbury 42 (Willie Wright 2, Patelesio Oneone, Fynlay Hobson, Anuanu Ohai tries; Wright pen, 4 con, Taine Cordell-Hull pen, Oneone dg). HT: 24-17 South Canterbury.

Watch the highlights at: www.allblacks.com/watch/1036803

Pigeon racing results

The St John's Racing Pigeon Adjunct held two races over the long weekend. The North birds flew from Taumarunui in calm conditions.

First was a bird from the loft of Shane Guddop 1370m/m or 82.20km/hr. Second was Jim Pullins 1360.66m/m or 81.63km/hr. Third was Alois Verstraeten 1319m/m or 79.18km/hr, then Heather Verstraeten 1263.37m/m or 75.80km/hr.

For the birds racing from the South (Kekerengu) – this was their first race across the Cook Strait. The race was held on Friday 23 October to take advantage of more favourable weather.

Shane Guddop took first place again with his bird flying 1324.87m/m or 79.42km/hr. Second was Alois Verstraeten 1263.37m/m or 75.80km/hr and third Heather Verstraeten 1200m/m or 72.04km/hr and fourth Brad Fairweather 1182.08m/m or 70.92km/hr.

This weekend's race is from Whangarei for the North birds only, giving the South birds a rest until the following weekend.

Public twilight walks on again

The Whanganui Tramping Club's twilight public walks are on again in November. All walks are on a Monday, begin at 6pm and last up to two hours. There is no need to register – just turn up at the start point. The programme is:

9 November: A walk at Castlecliff where a lot is going on. Meet at 17 Seafront Rd. We will walk through the dunes and look at the site of the new carpark, proposed nursery, some of the plantings and check out reconstruction work on the South Mole before coming back along the beach. The tide will be low.

16 November: Visit Araheke Mountain Bike Park, a network of biking and walking trails south of the city. About 10km of trails are divided between the Wiritoa and Pauri trail areas. Cut-outs of wild animals dotted through the area add an element of fun. Mostly flat walking. It could be muddy in places, so solid footwear is recommended. Meet at the Lake Wiritoa Reserve carpark at the end of Kaitoke Rd off SH3.

23 November: A farm walk from Westmere to Castlecliff and return. Meet at 17 Seafield Road, lefthand side of the road by white farm gate and cattle stop. A repeat of a popular twilight outing from 2023. A chance to see Castlecliff from a different perspective. No dogs allowed. Suitable for children /grandchildren.

30 November: A Putiki walk. Meet at the boat ramp on Kemp St. Walk back to Putiki Drive, then Wikitoria Rd and turn right at the roundabout along the walkway/cycle track. Just before the Cobham Bridge, descend down the slip track to walk along the riverbank towards Corliss Island. Retrace our footsteps back except take Te Anaua Rd onto Putiki Drive, then turn left into Cracroft Drive. Take in the historic kumara pit reserve and walk to the end of Cracroft Drive cul-de-sac. Return down through the paddock of No. 23 and back onto Cracroft Drive. At the bottom, turn into Putiki Drive and on to Kemp St.



Catch up on Castlecliff developments on a twilight walk.

A spooktacular day of netball fun is coming this Saturday

This Halloween, it's time to swap tricks for passes and treats for a netball! Netball Whanganui is inviting Year 1–4 tamariki and their whānau to join the fun at the FutureFERNS Give it a Go Day on Saturday 31 October at our Laird Park Netball Courts on Peat Street – and it's shaping up to be an afternoon packed with action and a few spooky surprises!

Whether your little one is a budding netball star, keen to try something new, or simply looking for a fun way to celebrate Halloween, this is the perfect opportunity to get involved.

And here's the best part – tamariki are encouraged to bring their spectacular outfits along and keep the Halloween spirit alive while giving netball a go.

There'll be plenty happening off the court, too, with Netball Central Zone joining us on site to share their knowledge, advice and valuable resources. Whether you're a parent wanting to learn more about FutureFERNS, a Star Helper looking for fresh ideas, or a young player ready to take your first steps into the game, there'll be something for everyone.

Woolworths New Zealand are also bringing the excitement, with a fantastic line-up of goodies and activities to enjoy. Think skills walls, fresh fruit and snacks, and, of course, a good old Kiwi sausage sizzle! It's the perfect recipe for a great afternoon out with the kids.

The FutureFERNS programme is all about helping young players develop their skills, build confidence and discover the joy of netball in a fun, supportive environment. This Give it a Go Day is a fantastic chance for tamariki to experience the game and for everyone to see just how much fun getting involved can be.



So gather the kids, dust off those Halloween costumes and come along ready for an afternoon of fun, friendship and netball excitement!

Don't miss out – bring your whānau and give netball a go!

For more information, contact Netball Whanganui at netball@netball-whanganui.co.nz

We can't wait to see you there!

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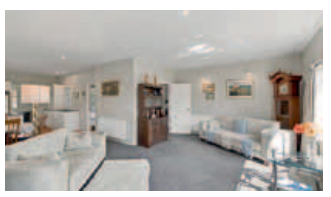
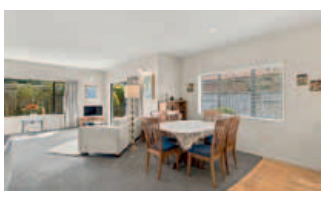




Central sanctuary

3 1 1 1

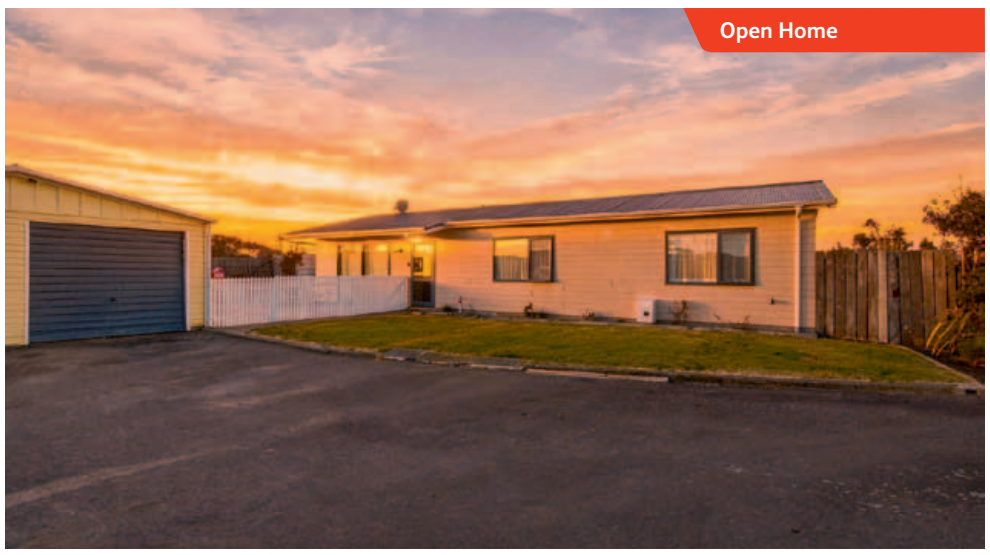
For Sale Buyers $669,000+
View Sun 1 Nov 10.30 - 11.00am
Web pb.co.nz/WGU237170

Imagine having the best of Whanganui right on your doorstep, while coming home to your own private, low-maintenance retreat. Tucked away from the street and thoughtfully positioned in a highly convenient central location, 118A Glasgow Street offers an enviable combination of comfort, privacy and effortless living. This substantial 149 m2 (approx) brick home has been designed for easy living, with three generous bedrooms, a family bathroom plus separate toilet. At the heart of the home, the open-plan kitchen, dining and living area is made for gathering and entertaining.

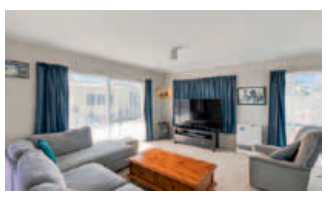


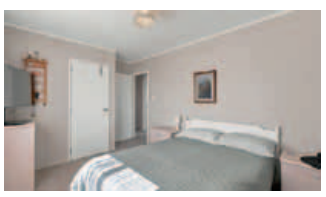
Nikki Greenwood
M 021 136 8500

Gonville 81A Swiss Avenue









2010 built and double glazed

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For Sale Buyers $399,000+
View Sun 1 Nov 11.15 - 11.45am
Web pb.co.nz/WGU236723

If you're a first home buyer or a downsizer looking for an easy-care home without compromising on comfort, this one is well worth a look. The vendor is motivated to sell, making this an opportunity worth exploring. Set back from the road in an elevated position with distant ocean views, this sunny three bedroom home offers a lovely sense of privacy. Built in 2010, it provides the comfort and practicality you'd expect from a modern home, including double glazing, gas heating and a security system. Inside, the open-plan kitchen, dining and living area is light, warm and welcoming.



Nikki Greenwood
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