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Former Police bomb dog handler writes a book to record history

BY LOUISE FOLLETT

Whanganui author and long-serving frontline officer Rob Rattenbury has teamed up with two key researchers to produce a new history of the New Zealand Police Dog Section.

Lead researchers John Edmonds, former chief dog handler, and retired Sergeant Paul Selby – both Meritorious Service Medal recipients – worked with him on the book. Dante Road: A History of the *New Zealand Police Dog Section* chronicles how police and 'man's best friend' have worked together to change policing for the better.

It's a chronicle of how the police and "man's best friend" work together to change policing for the better.

Commissioned by the New Zealand Police Dog Charitable Trust, the book took five years to complete. It's comprehensive and, most importantly, written in laypeople's language.

The Police Dog sections started in the late 1950s with just two Alsatians: Dante, imported from the UK as a pup, and Miska, a fully trained police dog. The service has grown to more than 100 teams. New Zealand police dogs and their handlers now respond to over 30,000 incidents a year.

It's quite the story of innovation, partnership, bravery and loss. Twenty-nine police dogs have been killed since its inception, and whilst no police officers have died, many have been left with life-changing injuries due to their line of work.

The inspiration for the book came from John, who realised that its history was about to disappear. John Edmonds and Paul Selby, a long-serving handler and trainer, travelled nationwide, interviewing former dog handlers dating back to the 1950s to ensure their stories weren't surrendered to the mists of time.

It was Rob's task to weave the multitude of stories into this 120,000-word history. But he wasn't writing from a purely academic perspective – he had been in the service himself.

"I was never a patrol dog handler. I was a bomb dog handler of all things. But I have the utmost respect for the patrol guys because they work on their own," says Rob.

"It's a rough life, and you're on your own all the time – they get way ahead of all the other police in a search because they go flat out.

"And there's usually only them and the dog when they catch anybody.

"Bad things happen."

There are plenty of personal stories, including that of Harold Surgeoner, Whanganui's first dog handler.

The book has been quite the journey for Rob and his team of researchers. But Rob is already working on his second novel.

Rob calls writing his hobby; passion might be a more fitting word to describe the many hours spent at the keyboard faithfully recording an important aspect of policing history in New Zealand.

Proceeds from the book sales will be donated to the Police Dog Charitable Trust.

Dante Road: A History of the New Zealand Police Dog Section book launch, hosted by Lesley Stead, will be held at the Alexander Heritage & Research Library on Friday 20 November, at 5pm.



Police dog handler Rob Rattenbury, in the 1970s, with dog Dyna at a charity event.

- Book giveaway -

RCP have a copy of the book that one lucky reader can win. To enter, email rivercitypress@xtra.co.nz with Dante in the subject line, and your name and daytime phone number in the body of the text. Alternatively, write the details on a piece of paper and drop it off at River City Press at 52 Ingestre St. This competition is for Whanganui residents only. Competition closes November 20.

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Jazz Orchestra to perform at Whanganui River Market this Saturday

Following a successful appearance at the Christchurch Big Band Festival over Labour Weekend, the Whanganui Jazz Orchestra (WJO) returns home to perform at the Whanganui River Markets on Saturday 14 November, from 10.30am.

WJO performed at five venues over three days: Fat Eddie's, Altiora, Isaac Theatre Royal, Christchurch Art Gallery and the Archery Lawn in the Botanic Gardens. Audiences enthusiastically embraced the band's energy and musicianship under Musical Director Riwai Hina, with Christchurch's Swingtown Rebels dance group adding to the festival atmosphere.

The well-organised festival attracted big bands from around the country, including two from the North Island, and highlighted the city's vibrant live music scene.



Whanganui Jazz Orchestra

WJO has enjoyed a busy and rewarding year, performing regularly throughout Whanganui and further afield at the Manawatū Jazz Festival, Manawatū Jazz Club, Relay for Life in Palmerston North, and a garden party between Palmerston North and Ashhurst.

For its upcoming performance, WJO will present a lively mix of swing, Latin, funk and pop, featuring many of the arrangements performed in Christchurch. The programme will showcase the orchestra's talented vocalists, Bridget Cook and Simon Bloor, alongside an impressive lineup of instrumental soloists.

Don't miss the Whanganui Jazz Orchestra live outside the Tram Shed from 10.30am! Bring your friends and family, explore the market stalls, grab a coffee, and soak up the atmosphere as the orchestra fills the riverside with the exciting sounds of big band jazz.

Performance is weather dependent.

Make a morning of it at the Whanganui River Markets – with great music and a fantastic way to start your Saturday. We look forward to seeing you there!

Two Whanganui flying heroines were inspiration for new book

The latest novel by New Zealand historical fiction Author Olivia Spooner, *The Flying Girls*, drew inspiration from two flying heroines from Whanganui: Jane Winstone and Trevor Hunter, later Colway.

"I was researching something else, and I stumbled across an article about some of the New Zealand female pilots who'd gone to fly in England during the war."

Jane Winstone (born Whanganui 1912) was a founding member of the Wanganui Aero Club and served with the ATA until she was killed in a Spitfire crash in England in February 1944; Trevor Hunter, later Colway, was the first New Zealand woman accepted for ATA flying duties. She learned to fly with the local aero club, served for nearly four years, logging extensive hours on many aircraft types including Spitfires and returned to Whanganui after the war.

During WWII, five New Zealand women made up the 168 female pilots who served in the ATA, affectionately nicknamed "Attagirls". They primarily ferried new, repaired and damaged military aircraft between factories, maintenance units and active Royal Air Force (RAF) and Fleet Air Arm airfields across the United Kingdom.

Olivia visited Whanganui to find out more about Jane and Trevor as part of research gathering for the book. Olivia wanted to weave the story with the accuracy of lived wartime experience.

The plot centres on two fictional characters: in 1930s New Zealand, Alma Simpson defies expectations to become a pilot, while in Britain, privileged socialite Sissy seeks purpose as war looms. Both join the Air Transport Auxiliary, flying Tiger Moths to Spitfires through deadly skies. An unlikely friendship forms amid danger, ambition and loss. Alma fights for respect; Sissy faces heartbreak – it's a story of courage and women who refuse to stay grounded.

Olivia explains why she was so moved by the actions of the real ATA women: "These women flew anything to anywhere in some of the most terrible conditions.

"They were expected often to fly a plane they'd never flown before, and none of the planes had any navigational aids – they just flew with maps and compasses.

"And they didn't even have a radio … there was no communication with the ground. So I just think they were so, so brave."

It was incredibly risky work, and they were functioning in a male world.

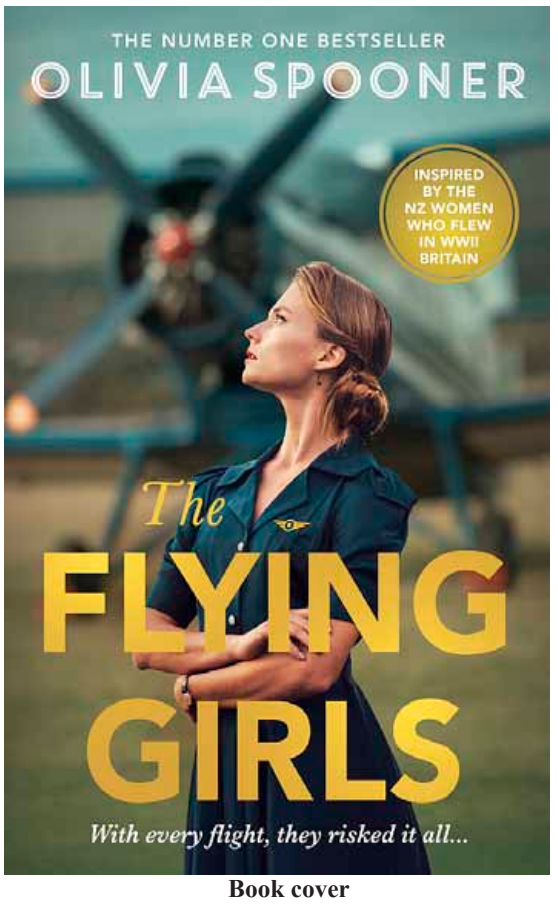
"They weren't treated particularly well by some of the men. They had to do everything perfectly. Otherwise, they felt they didn't get the same treatment.

"That's why I wanted to share their story. They're in the book as minor characters."

Olivia has dedicated the book to all the incredible women she loves and admires – women in the real world, past and present, who refuse to be defined by others.

Olivia reminds women in her dedication at the front of the book to "Take up space".

This is Olivia's fourth WWII-era historical novel. All of them feature New Zealand perspectives and women's stories. *The Flying Girls* is available from Paige's Bookshop.



Book cover

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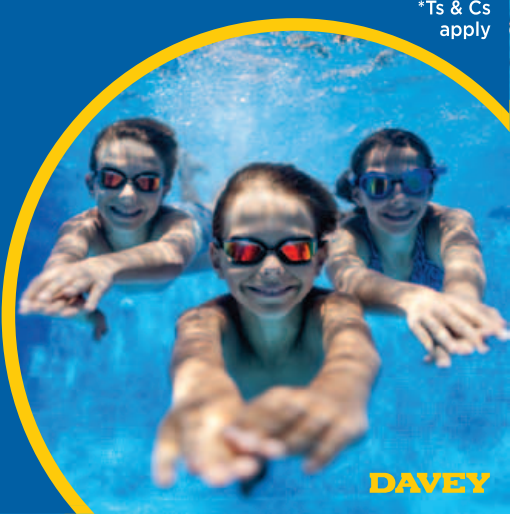


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Jake Hood wins major title at NZ karate tournament

Last Saturday, 23-year-old Jake Hood took out the Open Men's Division at the Kokoro Cup NZ, an annual open karate tournament in Napier, organised by World Karate Organisation Shinkyokushinkai New Zealand.

Kokoro is Japanese for heart or spirit and expresses what Jake had to draw on to beat three opponents, including Australia's top-ranked fighter, to be the winner.

This title comes off the back of winning the MOKNZ Heavyweight Title in Whanganui in August.

Jake's father, Sensei Richard Hood, says after last weekend's outstanding result, "Jake will get a few weeks off, then it's back into training for the 'Treble' at the Matsushima National Champs in Wellington next February." 'Treble' refers to winning three titles at the same event.



"He competed in that last year and was 2nd place."

There will be many hours of training ahead for Jake with coach "Big P" Parson at the Kyokushin Whanganui Club.

Children's book donations for Christmas going to local charities

Kiwi Christmas Books is a community book donation initiative founded by ex-TV reporter Sonya Wilson, and this is the third year that Paige's Book Gallery has supported the project for the love of reading and backing tamariki to thrive in our community.

This year, Paige's have chosen two Whanganui recipients – Woven Whānau and Jigsaw – two organisations whose purpose is to see whānau flourish. The gift of a book really does make a difference.

Kiwi Christmas Books launched on 1 November this year, and donations can be made until mid-December at Paige's Book Gallery on Guyton Street for Christmas distribution.

As the books are Christmas presents, they do need to be new, but they don't have to be purchased from Paige's. Donations are very welcome, and the team at Paige's also accept cash donations, with a book chosen on your behalf.



Beth Savage from Woven Whānau surrounded by books at Paiges Book Gallery that could well find their way to the boxes of Kiwi Christmas Books.

"It's just the most marvellous charity, and it just means that kids without books in their home, or limited books, benefit through Kiwi Christmas Books. People donate the most beautiful books," says Lesley Stead, owner of Paige's Book Gallery.

Woven Whānau is a Whanganui initiative that began in 2020 following a co-design process with parents and grandparents.

"So the idea is that we're alongside parents and grandparents who are raising tamariki and mokopuna. We support parents as well," says Beth Savage, a facilitator at Woven Whānau.

"Because we're philanthropically funded, we operate in a way that is community-based, so the family decides what it is that they want. So we may sit with you for the first couple of hours that we meet you, and have a cup of tea."

They hold regular activities, and coffee mornings and dinners once a month, so that all the families have opportunities to meet. Beth says, "They become like family."

It's all about support, and the Woven Whānau team also have deep connections to other agencies in the community who can assist families along the way with specific challenges.

The other recipient of the Kiwi Christmas Books is Jigsaw Whanganui, a social service organisation that enables couples, families and whānau to take better care of each other and their children.

Both organisations are vital to the community, and both will be able to share the pleasure of books with their whānau. It's about more than just reading a story, books fire the imagination, foster empathy and create bonds between caregivers and children.

In terms of the generosity provided by Kiwi Christmas Books, Beth says, "Books are quite expensive, and so oftentimes that gets kind of left or forgotten. And so being able to have that time of settling them in the evenings or just having a quiet connection moment in the afternoon is huge."

Both organisations are hugely grateful for Kiwi Christmas Books and Paige's Book Gallery for the opportunity.

Council seeks community views on older persons' housing

Whanganui District Council is asking the community for early input to resolve a 20-year-old issue with funding older persons' housing for the future, as aging housing stock and rising costs put pressure on the current funding model.

Mayor Andrew Tripe says, "This long-term plan is all about facing the past and funding our future."

He says older persons' housing plays an important role in helping older people on low to moderate incomes live with security, dignity and independence.

"Like councils around the country, Whanganui District Council has – since 1947 – provided affordable housing for older people who might otherwise struggle to find a suitable home. Having a secure place to live, and being able to stay connected to your community, makes a real difference to people's lives." The council currently owns around 275 homes for older people.

The council's chief executive Doug Tate says in 2026/27, rental income is budgeted at around $2.3 million against operating costs of about $2.8 million. "That leaves an operating shortfall of about $490,000, which is entirely met through borrowing – with no contribution from the ratepayer. This shortfall will increase every year that we continue with the current model."

As it develops its 2027–2037 long-term plan, the council wants to hear what the community thinks would be the right path forward for the future. A short survey asks the Whanganui community about the role they think the council should play in older persons' housing and to indicate their preference for sustainably funding older person's housing – whether through rates, rents or shared costs.



One other option at this stage is an independent housing trust.

Councillor Kate Joblin explains that option, saying, "We are proposing having a standalone entity, a trust, to unlock the potential to develop affordable housing for Whanganui. A trust like the one proposed would be eligible for future government funding opportunities, social impact funding, and social investment through government-guaranteed funding agencies. It's a possible solution; no decision has been made yet."

Mayor Andrew says, "I'd encourage people to share their thoughts. What we hear will help us develop options for our 2027–2037 long-term plan, before we come back to the community for formal consultation."

Mayor Andrew says the council's priority is to ensure tenants can continue to live in older persons' housing, although changes to how the service is funded will likely be needed.

The survey, which is available on the council website, opened on Wednesday 4 November and closes on Sunday 22 November.

https://haveyoursay.whanganui.govt.nz/long-term-plan-2027-2037/older-persons-housing

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A chance to see New Zealand's up and coming opera talent

By Lin Ferguson

From 3 January, Whanganui music lovers can immerse themselves in the New Zealand Opera School, featuring 21 glorious young singers from throughout the country.

These carefully selected young singers will spend two intensive weeks at Whanganui Collegiate School, where they will have individual voice lessons, masterclasses and tuition in foreign languages, acting and stage direction from renowned tutors in the opera world.

Internationally acclaimed vocal instructor César Ulloa, recently retired as Chair of the Voice Department at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music, makes a much-anticipated return to NZ Opera School for his third visit. Almost a decade since he last joined us in 2018, César set his former student, now world-acclaimed New Zealand Samoan tenor Pene Pati, on the path to operatic stardom. Having led young artist programmes at the San Francisco Opera Center's Merola and Adler programmes for 19 years, César is a master teacher in every sense.

Joining him are international mezzo-soprano Roxane Hislop, from the Conservatorium of Music in Melbourne, who brings four decades of performance and teaching experience to Whanganui this January, and award-winning New Zealand baritone Julien Van Mellaerts (now based in Paris), all supported by the school's world-class team of pianists and coaches.

The school is supported by the Freemasons Foundation, Creative New Zealand, the NZ Opera Foundation Trust and the Whanganui Community Fund, as well as private benefactors and trusts.

For Whanganui, this is always a spectacular highlight on the calendar, showcasing exciting performances from young voices destined to go far on the world's opera stages.

It's a tough world, but once again the school will showcase the beauty of young New Zealand singers and the strength of their voices.

Public events include:

Artists Recital (sold out) – 6 January (1pm), Whanganui Regional Museum. Always packed and much loved by audiences.

In Praise of Music – 10 January (11.30am), Whanganui Collegiate Chapel. Beautiful and uplifting.

Public Masterclass with Roxane Hislop – 11 January (7pm), Prince Edward Auditorium. A superb insight into vocal voice training.

Café Evenings at Remington and The Glasshouse (sold out) – 13 January (6pm). A relaxing evening to hear these wonderful students.

Conversations about Opera – 15 January (2pm), Prince Edward Auditorium.

Great Opera Moments – 16 January, (7.30pm), Royal Whanganui Opera House. Marvellous and not to be missed!

For all you Whanganui music lovers, tickets are



available online and from the Royal Whanganui Opera House. Visit www.whanganuivenues.co.nz (Buy Tickets tab) or call (06) 349 0511 to purchase tickets.

Once again, the glory of classical music and voices is celebrated here in Whanganui. Hurrah!

Pigeon racing results

Last weekend the pigeons raced from Waitara – a shorter race to keep them fit for a couple of longer races this month. The weather on liberation (at 9am) was overcast with patches of drizzle. This resulted in a slower than usual speed as the birds dodged the rain.

Shane Guddop had another win with his bird clocking in at 11.47am and a speed of 912.21m/m or 54.73km/hr. Dave Lacy was close second with 912.13m/m or 54.72km/hr.

Third was Alois Verstraeten 905.95m/m or 54.41km/hr. Next was Heather Verstraeten 906.19m/m or 54.37km/hr, Don Lacy 905.42m/m or 54.32km/hr, Jim Pullins 896.54m/m or 53.79km/hr, Brad Fairweather 893.15m/m or 53.58km/hr and Benedick Galanida 872.03m/m or 52.32km/hr.

The South birds were held back until Sunday to avoid the wet weather, and the results of that race have yet to be calculated.

The North pigeons will be racing from Taipa this coming weekend while the South birds have a few days off to rest.

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Boutique clothing and gift store celebrating first year in business

At Home with Rose, a boutique clothing and gift store with a strong focus on sustainability, durability and timeless style, is about to celebrate its first birthday. RCP caught up with the owner Rose Miller to learn more about her unique business and her motivation to offer a more soulful shopping experience.

The highlight of Rose's first year has been meeting customers and building relationships, "I love connection with people that come in here, and I love the connection with the people that I buy things off."

Rose values not only her customers but also the businesses she buys from. She makes a point of getting to know the people behind the products and the values they bring to their work. That connection is important to her.

From the clothing brand Kowtow, Bonpied and Common Garden socks, Soli Studio jewellery, Baron Hasslehoff's chocolate treats to curated cards and magazines, Rose says, "They've all got good stories behind them."

It's about purchasing with purpose, and as a customer, you can rest assured that whatever you buy, Rose has delved to discover the heart of the item, that it fits with her values of nurturing a sustainable planet, and that the items we own are more than just a transaction, it's about relationships.



At Home with Rose in Guyton Street.

"It's about buying things that are meaningful to you – it's the difference between fast fashion, the fast concept of selling, and slow fashion. You buy it, it'll last.

"I've had people come in here wearing 10-year-old Kowtow, and it still looks amazing. It's still kept its style because they keep their own style. They don't follow a fad.

"They're beautifully made. The quality of the fabric lasts. It's organic cotton and won't shrink in the wash.

And equally important to Rose, "When I open the boxes, it's tissue bags – there's no plastic."

At Home With Rose offers a new way to shop thoughtfully – the shop is part of a community of woman-owned businesses who share Rose's philosophy on Guyton Street.

"Our street is so collaborative – it feels like family."

Speaking of family, Rose is also grateful, to her son, his wife and his sister-in-law, who "painted the interior over a weekend for me".

As a customer you become part of Rose's family, too.

Rose's plan for the for second year? A new brand out of Wellington is on its way – Otsu – which Rose is excited to introduce to the Whanganui community.

And there's her dad's old turntable waiting in the wings. "I've got a very big vinyl collection tucked away at home, which will be coming in here in little dribs and drabs for curated listening."

At Home With Rose is open Thursday afternoons 1–5pm, Friday 9am–5pm and Saturday 10am–4pm. You can buy online at www.athomewithrose.co.nz, choose "pickup" and collect from the store. Rose offers free giftwrapping.

UCOL U-Skills students bring designs to life

Secondary school ākonga (students) from across Manawatū, Whanganui and Horowhenua have put their skills into practice at UCOL this year, creating scale models of residential buildings and a wharenui (large house) as part of the 2026 U-Skills Applied Construction Design Level 3 programme.

The U-Skills programme gives Year 12 and 13 ākonga hands-on, industry-relevant learning one day a week while continuing their school studies.

Working in four teams, the Year 12 and 13 ākonga applied what they had learned during the eight-month programme, using architectural plans and construction methods to turn their concepts into completed models.

Grant "Mac" McCormick, UCOL Lecturer Architectural Technology & Applied Construction Design, says three teams constructed 1:10 scale residential buildings, each with different features, including skillion roofs, verandas and decks.

"Students built the models from the foundations up, completing wall framing and cladding, roof trusses and roofing.

"Each team worked from construction plans, using recognised design methods and New Zealand timber-framed building standards to create models that met the design requirements."

McCormick says the hands-on project is a key component of UCOL's U-Skills Applied Construction Design Level 3 programme, which gives secondary school students interested in construction, design and architecture the opportunity to study at UCOL while continuing their school studies.

"Students attend UCOL one day a week over eight months, gaining practical skills, experiencing tertiary study and exploring possible future study and career pathways."



L-R: Te Amoihia Swannel-Kaa, Krithika Palika, Amor Dempers, Zander Van Rooyen, Mac McCormick (Lecturer), Miller Andrew, Liam Procter, Dycen Russell.

Here's to 365 days of At Home With Rose!



Beautiful things made well, made sustainably and made to last. Curated by Rose.

1 Ten tempting chocolate creations from Wellington's Baron Hasselhoff's. **2** Beautifully individual ceramic pieces from Wundaire. **3** Colourful, characterful socks from Bonpied of France. **4** Literary-themed candles you'll love from Urganiqa of Sydney. **5** Preppy organic cotton checked shirt from Wellington's Kowtow. **6** Comfy and cute Kowtow cotton wrap cardy. **7** Perfume your space with incense by Maho Sensory from Melbourne. **8** Zero-waste, plant-based, and palm oil-free artisan soap bars and konjac cleansing sponges from Dillon Skincare, Sydney. **9** Baggu bags of San Francisco. **10** Chako Lab drink bottles, in fun colours and made to last.

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BIRTHDAY SALE

Look out for a few special sale treats to mark the occasion!

Good Bitches Baking Whanganui marks 10 years of community service

Good Bitches Baking (GBB) Whanganui recently celebrated a significant milestone, marking 10 years of delivering kindness, connection, and support to the local community through home baking.

The celebration brought together volunteers, community partners, recipients and supporters to reflect on a decade of service and the difference that a simple act of kindness can make.



Good Bitches Baking team with supporters, celebrating 10 years.

Today, GBB Whanganui supports 23 recipient organisations throughout the district and is powered by an incredible network of 92 volunteers who regularly bake and deliver treats to people facing challenges in their lives.

Among the guests attending the celebration were Whanganui Mayor Andrew Tripe, Dr Antony Nobbs from the Whanganui City Mission, one of the chapter's valued recipient organisations, and Eryn Gribble, General Manager of Kai Hub Whanganui. Kai Hub has been a long-time supporter of Good Bitches Baking, regularly assisting with ingredients such as bananas, eggs and other baking essentials when available.

Also joining the celebrations was Teri Carson from Alzheimers Whanganui, a strong supporter of GBB and a familiar face at local fundraising events, including the Winter Market, where her enthusiasm and encouragement helped make fundraising a success.

While the occasion celebrated a decade of community impact, it also provided an opportunity to recognise the dedication of Sandra Wilson, who has been involved with the Whanganui chapter since its early years. Her commitment, leadership and passion for supporting others have helped shape the chapter into the thriving organisation it is today.

Guests also enjoyed a beautifully crafted celebration cake, generously baked by Sophie Deane, which proved to be a highlight of the afternoon.

GBB Whanganui Head Bitch Tania Taylor said the event was as much about celebrating people as it was celebrating the milestone.

"The heart of Good Bitches Baking has always been our volunteers. Every slice, biscuit, muffin and cake represents kindness, compassion and community. It was wonderful to see so many volunteers come together to celebrate what has been achieved over the past 10 years."

The celebration served as a reminder that Good Bitches Baking is about much more than baking. It is about creating connections, supporting local organisations and bringing comfort to people when they need it most.

As GBB Whanganui looks ahead to the next decade, the chapter remains committed to its mission of spreading kindness through baking and supporting the organisations and people who make the community stronger.

For more information about Good Bitches Baking Whanganui or to volunteer, visit www.gbb.org.nz

Faulty valves hamper Council's sand clean-up

Whanganui District Council's work to remove sand from Castlecliff's drinking water network is being hampered by legacy issues, chief executive Doug Tate says.

Residents and businesses in Castlecliff and the surrounding area have been intermittently affected by sand in their water supply since early September.

A NO-DES specialist filtration unit commissioned to extract sand from the network is revealing faulty valves and hydrants after it had connected in these affected areas, causing the unit to move on to other sections while the faults were repaired.

Doug Tate says the council remains strongly focused on the sand issue and is moving swiftly as faults are identified.

"I am aware that unforeseen faults have hampered the clean-up work being carried out. These faults cannot be spotted easily unless the network is put under pressure which is what the filtration unit is doing," he says.

When a fault prevented cleaning from proceeding, the NO-DES team would move to another part of the network then return to carry out the process.

The community will see the filtration unit for a while longer as the council extends its engagement to filter new areas and return to previously filtered areas for another sweep.

"The legacy issues are adding to our ability to resolve the sand issue quickly, but it is not the cause of it. We are still working on the hypothesis that higher flows disturbed sediment in the network when the Castlecliff water main was upgraded," Doug Tate says.

Mayor Andrew Tripe says the priority is to keep the work moving and follow up with those experiencing problems to see what support is needed.

"I'm sorry this issue has not been resolved yet, and some residents are still finding sand in their water supply. I know the teams are working hard to find a solution and are also frustrated when other factors make what sounds like an easy remedy become complex.

"As elected members, we want to see where the work is making a difference, where problems are continuing and what further action is needed. We believe our community deserves to hear about all three," Mayor Andrew says.

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Accompanist: *Philomena Gaines*

Guest Artists

Sonja Wilson Memorial Scholarship Winners

Jacob Huang *(Piano)*

Helena Burgstaller *(Soprano)*

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Auckland New Ballet brings performance to Whanganui featuring local ballerina



Seven enterprising Auckland dancers are bringing a new season of work to the Royal Whanganui Opera House this December. *Folklore*, a performance in two acts, combines excerpts from classical story ballets with new neoclassical work exploring themes of fairytale and fable.

Accompanied by musicians from the Passione Quartet who will perform select classical excerpts, *Folklore* celebrates humanity's enduring fascination with myth, fairytale and fable, and aims to provide an entry into classical dance.

Founded early this year, Auckland New Ballet (ANB) is an emerging collective of freelance dancers aiming to introduce new audiences to the grace and power of ballet. Following an exciting debut performance run in Auckland, ANB are bringing their inaugural show to audiences in Whanganui, Waiheke Island and Tauranga this summer. Whanganui-born-and-raised ANB artist Amelia Chandulal Mackay is particularly excited to be showcasing *Folklore* to her home audience.

Folklore runs at the Royal Whanganui Opera House on 19 December with a Quiet Matinee and Evening show. The sensory and family-friendly Quiet Matinee performance will also conclude with an onstage Q+A with the dancers, for audience members to connect with the artists and ask questions about the performance.

Tickets are available via Eventfinda: www.eventfinda.co.nz/2026/folklore/whanganui

Whanganui Squash Club celebrates outstanding success at Central Squash Awards

Whanganui Squash Club celebrated an outstanding afternoon at the Central Squash Awards which took place on the 31 October, taking home multiple awards, including the prestigious District Club of the Year.

The club has enjoyed a successful 2026, with a strong focus on growing participation and creating more opportunities for the local community. This year saw the introduction of a new Ladies Squash programme, alongside three successful Business House rounds, bringing new players through the doors and introducing more people to the sport.

There has also been significant investment in improving the club's facilities. Thanks to the support of its funding partners, the club has been able to purchase two industrial dehumidifiers, install an electronic scoring system and added carpet on its premiere court.

These improvements enhance the experience for members, players and visitors while helping ensure the club continues to provide quality facilities for the community.

The awards recognise the dedication, commitment and achievements of individuals and clubs across the Central Squash region, making the results a particularly proud moment for the Whanganui club. Alongside the District Club of the Year award, club members received recognition across several categories:

- Performance Coach of the Year: Paul Tuffin and Kent Darlington
- Foundation Coach of the Year: David Grant
- Coach of the Year: Paul Tuffin and Kent Darlington
- Player of the Year: Max Mathews
- Men's Masters Service Player of the Year: Matt Nation
- Women's Masters Service Player of the Year: Anneka Weterman
- Team of the Year: Central Junior Boys, including Whanganui Juniors Max and Darius Mathews
- Volunteer of the Year: Anneka Weterman
- Administrator of the Year: Jodie Arnott



Carl Mathews, Max Mathews, Darius Mathews, David Grant (Club President), Kent Darlington and Kelly Crossley.

The club extends its congratulations to everyone who was nominated, as well as its award winners. These achievements reflect the combined efforts of its coaches, players, volunteers, committee members, sponsors and supporters.

A special thank you also goes to the funding partners whose support makes so many of the club's improvements and developments possible. Looking ahead, there is plenty of excitement building across the Central Squash region, with preparations underway to host the New Zealand Squash Open from 16 to 21 February 2027 in Palmerston North. This prestigious event will bring some of the world's best squash players together as well as New Zealand's No 1, Paul Coll, with a premiere court being installed at The Regent on Broadway to showcase the action.

Winning District Club of the Year is a fantastic recognition of the work happening throughout Whanganui Squash Club and a highlight of what has been an exciting year, with plenty more to look forward to in 2027.

Your First Aid training specialist

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

Public classes are run at venues throughout the lower North Island, including Whanganui, Palmerston North, Levin, Kapiti, Masterton and Wellington. The next Whanganui class is scheduled for Monday 23 November or Wednesday 16 December. This eight-hour class will enable individuals to have the skills and confidence to assist during a medical emergency.

Electrical Workers

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

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

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

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

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Whanganui: Monday 23 Nov or Wednesday 16 Dec

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Whanganui Airport lands national infrastructure award

Whanganui Airport's new parallel taxiway has received national recognition, taking out the Small Airport Infrastructure Award at the 2026 New Zealand Airports Awards in Wellington last week.

The award recognises the successful delivery of the project, which was completed in April this year, on schedule and under budget.

The $6.7 million project was jointly funded by Whanganui District Council and central government, with each contributing half the cost. Construction was carried out by Fulton Hogan.

The project was undertaken to improve safety. Previously, aircraft often needed to travel back along the active runway after landing or before taking off. The new parallel taxiway reduces the time aircraft spend on the runway, lowering the potential for conflicts between aircraft and improving overall safety and efficiency.

The improvements are particularly timely given the airport's high level of activity recently – with more than 73,000 aircraft movements recorded in the 12 months to September 2026.

Whanganui Airport Joint Venture Chief Executive, Sarah O'Hagan, says the award is a significant achievement for the airport and everyone involved in the project.



Whanganui Airport's new parallel taxiway during construction.

"This was a major investment in the future of Whanganui Airport, so it's really pleasing that we've been able to complete the work on time and under budget.

"Fulton Hogan did a fantastic job on the construction, and we're also thankful for the vital support MCERT has provided in helping us achieve this.

"With aircraft traffic continuing to grow, this investment puts Whanganui Airport in a much stronger position to meet future demand. It's an important improvement that will benefit Whanganui for many years to come."

The award follows further positive news for the airport, with its latest financial results showing a substantial improvement in operating performance with a surplus before depreciation and significantly increased total income compared with previous years.

Speaking at the council's most recent Council Controlled Organisations and Economic Growth Committee meeting, James Turner from MCERT, the council's government partner in the airport, acknowledged the progress being made.

"We've built a really strong relationship with our partners at the council over the past few years. It's pleasing to see Whanganui Airport making such good progress towards becoming more financially sustainable.

"This recent award recognises the significant investment that's been made in the airport's infrastructure and shows what can be achieved when local and central government work together constructively. It's another positive step towards putting the airport on a stronger footing for the future."

The infrastructure award is the airport's second in three years, having also won the Small Airport Infrastructure Award in 2024 for its runway resurfacing project.

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Guest artists for Lyric Singers concert

The Lyric Singers invite you to attend their end-of-year concert at 2pm on Saturday, 21 November at Trinity Methodist Church on Wicksteed Street.

Lyric Singers like to support talented young musicians in the community.

Leah Thomson, one of their guest artists, recently attended an elite singing programme in Los Angeles.

The programme attracted 400 online auditions for 90 places.

Leah was the only New Zealander selected for the programme, which attracted singers aged 12 to 18 from around the world.



Leah Thomson

She will be accompanied by her singing teacher Marie Brooks.

The Whanganui Intermediate School choir, led by Roz Armstrong, has also achieved something special, receiving a gold award and "best overall performance" at *The Big Sing* in Palmerston North this year.

The choir will be accompanied by Roz Armstrong and Joanna Love.

The Lyric Singers will perform a selection of popular songs from the stage show *Oliver!*, along with "Angels Carol", "Wade in the Water", "16 Tons" and other entertaining favourites.

William Pati is the conductor and David Tipi is the accompanist. Come and support our talented young people.

A lively entertaining afternoon of music is assured

Adults $20; children under-12 free. Cash only.

Wai Ora Christian Community Trust celebrate 35 years



Marama Dey in the Op Shop.

In 1989, Marama Dey received a God-given vision through Isaiah 58:6–12 to serve those in need in Whanganui. What began with church volunteers caring for homeless and vulnerable youth has grown into a respected community organisation.

In 1991, Wai Ora Christian Community Trust was formally established, enabling its work in youth support, education, social services and whānau development to expand. Over the years, Wai Ora pioneered alternative education for young people disengaged from school, delivered horticulture training, and supported rangatahi and whānau to build brighter futures.

In 1998, Wai Ora moved to its current home at 49 Brunswick Road, Aramoho. Its two-acre property provided opportunities for community gardens, training and expanded services.

Responding to the housing crisis, Wai Ora established a papakāinga initiative, providing accommodation for people experiencing homelessness. Today, the Trust is fundraising to build two affordable one-bedroom rental homes for kaumātua, each costing $145,000.

Proceeds from Wai Ora's Seek & Find Op Shop on Weka Street contribute towards building these homes.

As Wai Ora celebrates 35 years of service, we sincerely thank the churches, funders, sponsors, staff, volunteers and community members whose generosity has sustained this mission.

We warmly invite the Whanganui community to join us for our 35th Birthday Community Fun Day on Saturday 21 November, 11.30am–2.30pm, at 49 Brunswick Road, Aramoho.





CULLINANE COLLEGE

For Love of God, Life and Learning
Mo te aroha ki te Atua, kia Oranga, kia Akona!

At Cullinane College we always celebrate the achievements of our students. The following is the list of Special Award winners at our Senior Academic Prize Giving held on Thursday 5th November, 2026.

Year 11 Diligence Trophy
Kini Mataitoga

Year 12 Diligence Trophy
Zeph Armas

Year 13 Diligence Trophy
Hanoch Lukose

Year 11 Overall Subjects Academic Award
Aleena Anoob

Year 12 Overall Subjects Academic Award
Jayden Philip Samuel

Mahoney/McCashan Cup for *Independent Study Skills*, Year 12
Riley Walker

Marton Parents Cup for *Independent Study Attitudes*, Year 13
Hanoch Lukose

Presentation to Student Representative CC Board of Trustees
Nikora Herewini

Touchstone Cup for the Learning Centre
Joseph Stent

Monaghan/Hone Trophy Promising Leadership, Year 11
Logan McBride

Vocational Excellence Award
Jayden Balderston

Jesse Wells Memorial Trophy for Flair & Originality in the Arts
Robert Ellis-Davenport

Jane Devine Trophy for Creativity & Flair *(Art & Culture)*
Paiheretia Kaa

Flair Trophy for Self Improvement - Boys
Calum Nixon

Flair Trophy for Self Improvement - Girls
Saphire Whenuaroa-Wynard

Shannon-Renata Jury Cup *Perseverance*
Maks Reitsma

Richard Hillgrove Memorial Shield *Attitude, Effort, Character & Commitment*
Caleb McCracken

Kurt Wallace Memorial Cup *Involvement and Effort*
Te Huatahi Bradley

Tony Stevenson Memorial Cup *Notable Contribution to Community Service*
Keanu Anderson

Campbell Cup *Senior Loyalty and Team Spirit*
Te Huatahi Bradley

Te Ngakau O Te Awa Trophy *Outstanding Leadership to Kapa Haka*
Maikara-Jordan McDonnell

Koorey Cup *General Excellence, Conduct, Application & Sport* - Boys
Te Huatahi Bradley

Koorey Cup *General Excellence, Conduct, Application & Sport* - Girls
Zoe Anderson

The Tangaroa Trophy *Outstanding Achievement in Te Reo Māori*
Marewa Millar-Potaka

Cullinane College Cup *International Student Excellence*
Jun Igarashi

Geoff Lott Trophy *Commitment to Special Character*
Keanu Anderson

DUX



HANOCH LUKOSE

PROXIME ACCESSIT



MAIKARA-JORDAN MCDONNELL

Cullinane College would like to warmly congratulate all students who were recognised at our **Māori Prize Giving, Sports Prize Giving, and Senior Prize Giving ceremonies**.

These occasions provide an opportunity to celebrate the dedication, perseverance, and commitment shown by our students throughout the year. Achievement is built on consistent effort, resilience, and a willingness to strive for excellence, and we are immensely proud of the accomplishments of all our award recipients.

We also acknowledge and thank the whānau, staff, and wider school community whose support and encouragement help our students reach their goals. As our senior students now turn their focus to their external examinations, we extend our very best wishes for success. We encourage them to approach this important time with confidence, knowing that their hard work and preparation have laid a strong foundation.

WAVERLEY A&P SHOW

Tuesday 17 November from 9.00am

Dallison Park, Waverley

Waverley A&P Show returns with "Paddock to Plate" theme

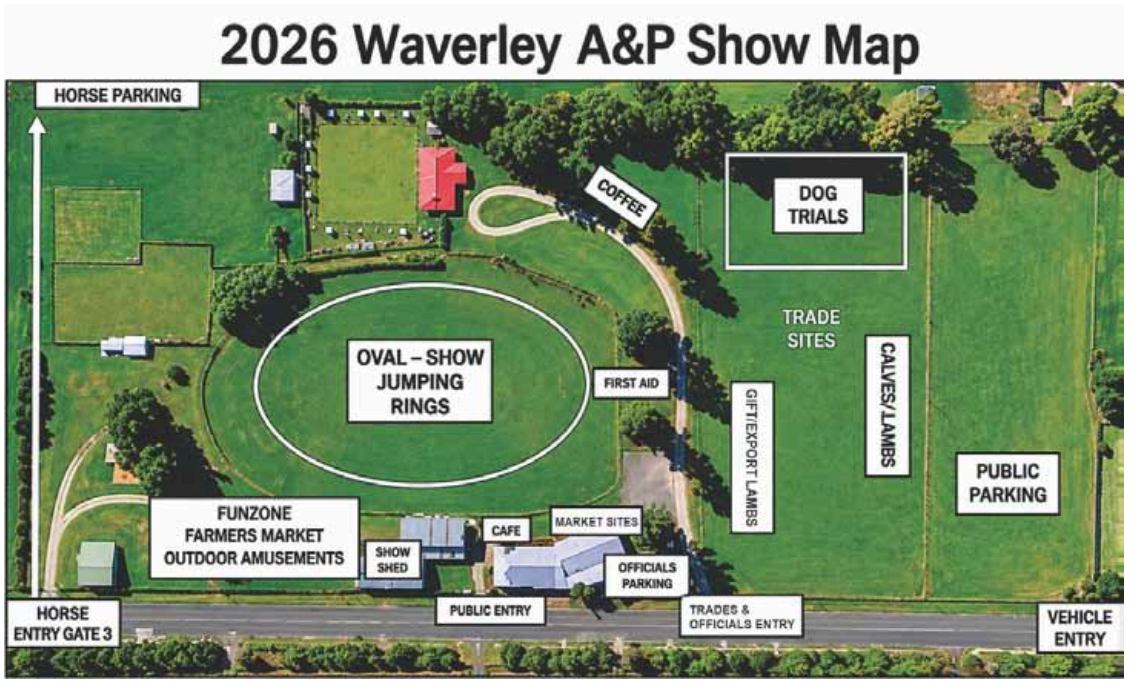
The Waverley A&P Show is back on Tuesday, 17 November, for its 104th year – the event's longevity and success is testimony to a tight-knit rural community. The Home Industries section has been elevated to Royal Event status by the Royal Agricultural Society of New Zealand.

Home Industries covers arts and crafts, baking, flowers and floral arrangements, photography, and children's competitions such as Cooks of Tomorrow.

President of the Waverley A&P Show Association, Leeanne Morrison, says, "We're expecting a really big turnout in our Home Industries, which is always really good. I believe last year we had close to 800 entries."

The Royal Event distinction brings traditional-style rosettes for exhibits, around eight medals for exceptional entries, a supreme exhibit rosette, and service awards for long-serving judges and contributors.

This year's theme is "Paddock to Plate".



New attractions include a farmers' market with a $50 voucher draw around midday (the winner must be present), free 1kg blocks of cheese from Fonterra and Open Country while stocks last, and a children's Hobby Horse competition.

Youngsters will receive pool noodles and examples to help them create their hobby horses, which will be judged on appearance, before taking part in a height jump. There are other free activities, including a scavenger hunt.

Traditional sections remain strong: lamb and calf classes, dog trials and a full equestrian programme are scheduled. Equestrian events – recreational show jumping, show hunter ponies and horses, flat classes, hunter-style jumping and junior recreational riders – begin at around 9am and continue until finished.

President Leanne Morrison is preparing for her eighth show. The association needs more volunteers, especially younger people. Skills in practical event support, website and technology work, and printed materials are particularly sought. Many processes, including trade entries, have already moved online.

Free gate entry, free Home Industries and lamb-and-calf entries, and free activities help keep the 104-year-old community event accessible, with support from funding and sponsorship.

Leeanne says the event starts at 9am – make a day of it in Waverley! There will be something to entertain all ages.

The full schedule is available on the Waverley A&P Association Facebook page.



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WAVERLEY A&P SHOW

Tuesday 17 November from 9.00am

Dallison Park, Waverley









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Photographer finds ‘calm through the lens’ for exhibition

Whanganui photographer Samantha Matthews has found an unlikely sense of freedom in the busy streets of the city, using her camera to explore the everyday details that often go unnoticed.

Her latest solo exhibition, *No Parking*, is showing at UTOPIA Studio + Gallery until 22 November. The exhibition follows Matthews’ journey from her downtown apartment to her studio in the CBD, capturing quiet moments and overlooked spaces along the way.

Growing up on a farm outside Whanganui, Matthews found the urban environment unfamiliar. Photography became a way to navigate the city on her own terms, finding moments of calm amid the activity around her.

“I find the camera gives me permission to experience a place. Acting like a safety barrier for the world, so I can move through it.”

The exhibition features 12 archival pigment prints on Hahnemühle photo rag alongside a catalogue of 55 images documenting the full series. Each work is limited to an edition of five and framed to museum quality conservation standards.

Matthews’ work has recently gained national attention, with her photographs documenting Fordell’s historic Lamb Hill Homestead included in *Slow Burn: Women and Photography* at Te Papa Tongarewa. She is also one of six artists selected for *Ināianei | Current*, opening at Whanganui’s Sarjeant Gallery on 7 November.

Alongside her photography practice, Matthews works as assistant manager of her family’s business, Matthews Roses, balancing her two passions for roses and photography.

Inspired by the exhibition, UTOPIA gallery owner Angela Tier is inviting the community to pick up a camera and explore their own surroundings through November Photo Fun, a free month-long photography activity.

Running from 1 to 30 November, the activity offers a different word prompt each day to encourage participants to look at familiar places from a fresh perspective. No special equipment or photography experience is needed. Participants can use their phones or digital cameras and share their images through UTOPIA’s Facebook group.

No Parking runs from 1 October to 22 November at UTOPIA Studio + Gallery, 68e Guyton Street, Whanganui. A PDF catalogue is available for those unable to visit in person.

November Photo Fun: 1–30 November, free and open to everyone.

More information: www.utopiastudiogallery.nz

Join November Photo Fun: www.facebook.com/groups/1797462638260953



Samantha Matthews photographer and Utopia gallery owner Angela Tier.

WANGANUI SECONDARY SCHOOL NEWS

Awards given to top students at Cullinane College

As we make the final push to the end of the academic year, we are reminded that we are united by our Special Character and our shared commitment to *He Waka Eke Noa* – we are all in this together. It is inspiring to see our ākonga embracing leadership opportunities, living out our SOUL values, and striving for excellence in all aspects of school life.

Service and community connection continue to be a defining feature of life at Cullinane. Weekly visits to the Jane Winstone Retirement Village provide meaningful opportunities for our students to share their time, compassion, and enthusiasm with others. We also look forward to our upcoming Pack the Bus initiative, which will once again showcase the generosity and community spirit that our young people are so well known for.

A heartfelt thank you to the many members of our college community who joined us for our Senior Prize Giving Ceremony on Thursday, 5 November. It was a wonderful evening of celebration and recognition, honouring the dedication, perseverance, and outstanding achievements of our senior students.

A special congratulations to Hanoch Lukose, who was named Cullinane College Dux for 2026. This remarkable achievement reflects exceptional dedication, academic excellence and a relentless pursuit of personal best.

We also warmly congratulate Maikara-Jordan McDonnell, who was awarded the prestigious Proxime Accessit for 2026. Both honours recognise students who have demonstrated sustained excellence, resilience, leadership and commitment throughout their time at Cullinane College.

Congratulations also to all award recipients. Every award presented represents countless hours of effort, determination, and perseverance. We would also like to acknowledge and sincerely thank our whānau, caregivers and wider school community. Your encouragement, support and partnership play an invaluable role in helping our students achieve their goals and realise their potential.

As our senior students now turn their attention to external examinations, we extend our very best wishes. Approach this important time with confidence and determination, knowing that your preparation, dedication and hard work have laid a strong foundation for success. We are incredibly proud of all that you have achieved thus far and look forward to celebrating your future accomplishments.



Cullinane College Dux, Hanoch Lukose.

Well done, seniors, and every blessing for your upcoming examinations.

We are excited to see the planning for our annual Awa Run now finalised. This year’s journey will include a significant connection with Maungarongo Marae in Ōhakune, further strengthening the cultural and community connections that are such an important part of this event. We look forward to students engaging in this meaningful experience and celebrating the rich heritage of our region.

To all our whānau – ngā mihi nui for your continued partnership, encouragement and support throughout the year. Together, let us maintain this positive momentum, support our senior students as they complete their final assessments and examinations, and finish the year strong as one college community.

Whanganui artist/illustrator’s latest children’s book explores climate change

Fiona Goulding, an artist and illustrator, has just published her second children’s book, *Because We Love Our Planet, Our Wildlife, Our Future* – a picture book that explores the impact of climate change on wildlife around the globe.

Lockett Gallery on Guyton Street will host an exhibition of more than 20 works by Fiona, featured in the book, opening at 11am on Saturday, 14 November and running until 4 January 2027.

The book is intended to spark curiosity and conversation, rather than provide an active to-do list.

The artwork is rich and detailed, and return visits to each page can reveal new perspectives. It could become a firm favourite on a child’s bookshelf.

Fiona explains, “Quite a lot of books on climate change, they’re great … and they’ve got all the facts … they’re great for parents and teachers, but for children it’s probably a bit daunting. I can’t imagine what it would be like for a child.

“If the kids do nothing more than just enjoy the rhyme and the colours, right? But, you know, I’m hoping that they might ask questions and just be curious.”

“I think it is something that all ages can enjoy,” says Lesley Stead, owner of Lockett Gallery and Paige’s Bookshop, which stocks the book, including signed copies.

The process of completing the book has taken over three years and it will be sold in New Zealand, Australia and the UK.

Fiona has worked as a graphic designer and a sign language educator, and has had an abiding passion for capturing nature through art for over 20 years.

All artwork will be available for purchase throughout the exhibition.



Fiona Goulding with her latest children’s book



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Improvised jazz jam session this Sunday


Jack Michalski

"Jazz washes away the dust of everyday life," – Art Blakey.

Porridge Watson brings you Live Jazz this coming Sunday. With its spirit of openness, spontaneity and connection, jazz music offers a welcome escape from the everyday grind and an opportunity to share in the energy of live music.

This month's band will be a collective led by Dave Griffiths on bass, Riwai Hina on trombone and Sanji Gunasekara on keys, Fred Loveridge on guitar, Ken Chernoff on saxophone, Richard Singleton on trumpet and Michael Franklin-Browne on drums. There will be guest performances by Simon Bloor and a host of others. In keeping with the spirit of a jam session, the band does not rehearse; instead, they improvise during performances.

Everyone is welcome to share in this lively celebration of spontaneous music and community.

Monthly International Jazz Day jam sessions continue thanks to the participating musicians, the enthusiastic audience and Porridge Watson's owner, Tony Sundman, who waives the cover charge and prepares mulled wine for the occasion.

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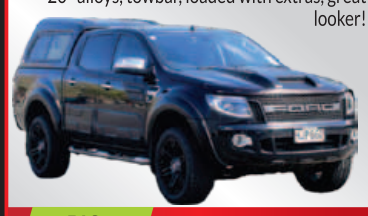
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David Jones Motors appointed authorised Kia dealer for Whanganui



Kia dealership to move to David Jones Motors from December 1.

David Jones Motors is pleased to announce its appointment as the new authorised Kia dealer for Whanganui, with Kia sales, servicing and aftersales support commencing from 1 December 2026.

The appointment follows the upcoming closure of Ignition Motor Group Ltd, currently trading as Whanganui Kia, which will cease business operations on 30 November 2026. Sales and service operations will continue as normal with the current dealership until that date.

As part of the transition, David Jones Motors will welcome seven experienced staff members from Ignition Motor Group to its team, including Kia Master Service management and experienced Kia technicians. Retaining this expertise and familiar faces will help provide continuity and make the transition as seamless as possible for existing Kia customers.

From 1 December, customers will be welcomed to:

Whanganui Kia – David Jones Motors
336 Victoria Avenue
Whanganui Central
Phone: 06 345 5115

To accommodate Kia, David Jones Motors is making several changes to its Victoria Avenue showrooms. The new Kia showroom will move into the existing Hyundai showroom, while Hyundai vehicle sales will relocate to a newly renovated showroom alongside Mitsubishi.

Hyundai customers will continue to receive parts and servicing from the existing Hyundai parts and service operation at 330 Victoria Avenue, with no change to this location or these services.

Established in 1984, David Jones Motors has more than 40 years of automotive experience and a longstanding connection with the Whanganui community. The addition of Kia represents an exciting new chapter for the locally established dealership and strengthens its commitment to providing Whanganui motorists with quality vehicles and trusted local support.

"We're delighted to welcome Kia to David Jones Motors and look forward to representing the brand in Whanganui. Importantly, we're also pleased to welcome seven experienced members of the Ignition Motor Group team to David Jones Motors. Their Kia knowledge and existing relationships with local customers will help us provide continuity from day one and ensure Kia owners continue to receive the service and support they know and trust.

"The changes to our showrooms will allow us to give Kia a dedicated presence while continuing to provide the same high level of support to our Hyundai and Mitsubishi customers. Hyundai parts and servicing will remain unchanged at 330 Victoria Avenue."

In addition to becoming Whanganui's authorised Kia dealer, David Jones Motors will also take on Škoda Police vehicle servicing, Holden warranty support and become an AC Delco parts supplier, further expanding the dealership's service, parts and aftersales capabilities. This will also be based at 330 Victoria Avenue, next to McDonalds

David Jones Motors is working closely with Kia New Zealand and Ignition to support a smooth transition for customers.

Whether purchasing a new Kia, servicing an existing vehicle or requiring aftersales support, customers can look forward to a combination of familiar Kia expertise and the friendly, knowledgeable service David Jones Motors has provided to the Whanganui community since 1984. We encourage all customers to start booking their vehicles via 06 345 5115 or on our website www.davidjones.co.nz/parts-service/book-a-service/

Experienced real estate agent, Shona Howe, joins the Arizto team

I am genuinely delighted to be offering my professional real estate services under the Arizto banner. Having spent considerable time evaluating the Arizto business model, I was particularly impressed by its combination of professional standards, client-focused service, smart use of technology and a more cost-effective approach to selling property.

I have been concerned that traditional real estate fees and the escalating cost of property marketing have placed an increasingly significant financial burden on sellers. However, it was also important to me that Arizto offered more than simply a lower-cost alternative. I wanted to be confident that I was aligning myself with an agency that had an established reputation, a strong commitment to legal compliance and industry best practice, user-friendly technology, and people who share a commitment to doing things well.

Offering clients a comprehensive suite of high-quality marketing and advertising at no upfront cost demonstrated to me Arizto's smarter approach and willingness to innovate to benefit their clients.

It has also become increasingly apparent to me that both buyers and sellers are looking for a more streamlined, cost-effective and straightforward real estate experience. They want less complexity and unnecessary expense, without compromising on professionalism, knowledge, communication or service. They want the reassurance of dealing with an experienced, capable agent who has the integrity, diligence and expertise to guide them confidently through every stage of the process.

I've also noticed that buyers have become more attuned to the benefits of dealing directly with the agent who manages the property listing, who they perceive will have more extensive knowledge of the property and be the most capable intermediary between them and the seller.

I am naturally self-motivated, accountable and diligent, and have exceptionally high standards of integrity and professional conduct. These qualities have allowed me to easily transition to a more autonomous and innovative way of working, while enjoying the support, systems and professional backing of a quality real estate agency.



Shona Howe also does a lot of charity work for SPCA/animal welfare in Whanganui.

My clients will continue to get the benefit of my outstanding reputation, 23+ years' experience and knowledge of the Whanganui market, adherence to the highest standards of real estate practice, and my usual 100% commitment to achieving the best outcome possible.



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A Sustainable Focus

A pivotal element in eco-friendly housing is the calculated positioning of skylights.

Putting them in the right place on the roof directs natural light into the interior, helping to save energy.

The man who designed Whanganui's Sarjeant Gallery 100-odd years ago mightn't have cottoned on to the energy aspect but he certainly knew the benefits of directing natural light into interiors.

Architect Samuel Seager called the use of skylights 'top-sided lighting'. He came up with the method late in the 19th century to bring out the best of displays in museums and art galleries. TSL is in use around the world today.

He'd already applied TSL in a design for the Suter Art Galley in Nelson, which opened in 1899. The first international mention of the concept was in an essay Seager penned in 1912 for the Royal Institute of British Architects Journal.

The Sarjeant Gallery opened in 1919 and followed to the letter Seager's floorpan – four arms identical in length extending from a square centre, a design known as a Greek cross.

Part of Whanganui District Council's 10-year economic strategy includes a focus on sustainable housing. It aims to build 1000 affordable, warm and dry homes over the next decade. Likely design elements include solar panels and skylights.

There's been a significant shift for some time in New Zealand towards eco-friendly residential and commercial designs.

- Skylights reduce the need for artificial lighting during daylight hours. They can provide enough daylight to eliminate the need for electric lighting during the day.
- Modern designs can boost thermal regulation in buildings, helping to keep indoor spaces comfortable. Some are designed with special glazing to minimise heat loss.
- Ventilating skylights allow fresh air to circulate, cutting reliance on air-conditioning units and helping to control humidity levels.
- Many are made these days with sustainable materials, further enhancing their eco-friendly credentials. For example, some aluminium frames include an insulated barrier inside the metal to stop heat transfer.
- Solar-powered skylights use the sun's energy to power their opening mechanisms. They can even charge integrated LED lighting for use at night, further contributing to a building's overall energy efficiency.
- Skylights can deliver up to twice as much light as a standard vertical wall window of the same size, with flat skylights bringing in even more.

Arizto is committed to sustainability in all its forms. Its agents continue to cheer on the Whanganui District Council's plans to make the region a leader in long-term growth and economic stability. Your new address starts here with team Arizto.

arizto.co.nz

UCOL Hairdressing, Skincare and Cosmetics students compete in finale competition

It was all glow-ups, hairdos and dress-ups recently as nine Level 3 Hairdressing, Skincare and Cosmetics students took part in their grand finale event. They showcased models with a range of hairstyles, from Mohawks to sophisticated updos, alongside avant-garde mannequin designs..

Four judges studied the students' work, marking the balance, finish and form of the hairstyles, and how well the finished designs matched each student's vision displayed on mood boards. Finally, they assessed the overall impact of the look, hair, makeup and outfit.

The hair design winner, Trude Little, was blown away by her success. Trude loves creating Mohawk designs from different hairstyles – her model, Daniel, had a completely different hairstyle before she began.

She said, "I wanted to shape it into a Mohawk. I think hair of any length can be turned into a Mohawk."

Trude is now seeking an apprenticeship.

The final placings are:

Hair:

1st place – Trude Little

2nd place – Evana McKenna

3rd Place – Tahlia

Avante Garde:

1st place – Evana McKenna

2nd place – Trude Little

3rd place – Leah Whitton

Makeup winners:

1st place – Arihna Feagai

2nd place – Madeline Tizard

3rd place – Daniel Harmse

The Level 3 Skincare and Cosmetics course is a two-day programme offered weekly to Year 12 and 13 students throughout most of the school year. Carly McAlorum is the Level 3 Skincare and Cosmetics Lecturer.

Students can then progress to the full-time Level 3 Hairdressing course, a year-long programme that covers basic colouring, styling and aspects of running a hairdressing salon, such as reception duties.

Jackie Broughton, Principal Lecturer, who has dedicated more than 35 years to the profession and owns two local salons, still loves the work.

Jackie says, "Just being able to share that knowledge that you've got yourself with younger people is great."



From left: Principal Lecturer Jackie Broughton, Daniel Harmse (model), Trude Little (winner) and Mel Lange, Academic Portfolio Manager.



Sailing Club hall available for hire

Sailing Whanganui is now hiring out their club's hall for functions such as weddings, anniversaries, business meetings, approved birthday celebrations and other activities.

The members have worked on refurbishing the clubhouse – this has included repainting, fitting new LED and party lighting, carpeting the lounge area, and refurbishing the toilets.

Noise-limiting carpeting has been installed on the back of the seating, and a 65" screen has been set up on the wall for displaying photos or using at meetings, with wi-fi also available.

Two heat pumps are being installed for winter heating to make it nice and cosy.

The hall is a great venue with good parking and a fantastic view overlooking the river; sunset is spectacular on the deck in the evening.

Although not completely finished, the hall is now available for functions again. The club will continue with the refurbishment, with the kitchen next on the list.

At the moment, it is advised to bring in outside catering until the kitchen is complete.

Future work will involve the installation of a disabled lift and an accessible toilet, painting the outside and tidying of the grounds.

If you are interested in hiring the hall, the cost for a function starts from $500, plus bond.

You can apply to the committee by going to www.sailingwhanganui.co.nz and filling in the application form.





Kayana Tahana-Hopkins joins Arizto Real Estate

Kayana Tahana-Hopkins has spent her life in Whanganui, giving her a deep understanding of the city and its people. With experience as a PA, buyer's agent, team member and sole salesperson, she is now bringing that knowledge together under the Arizto Real Estate umbrella.

Having previously worked for another high-performing local agency, Kayana is enjoying Arizto's approach. "I love it. It's an opportunity to offer my local community a fairer option in the real estate transaction."

She particularly values the mobile way of working, with no need to be in an office environment every day. Instead, she can spend more time out and about with clients and supporting local. This way of working, utilising Arizto's streamlined processes through their easy to use app technology also gives her more productive time and family time. "We still have the client suite, which our vendors and buyers can access; that office-type environment if needed."



Kayana Tahana-Hopkins

Arizto's online dashboard gives vendors 24/7 access to their sale information. "As soon as I've closed the open home via the app, my vendors can see the real-time feedback from the field."

Another Arizto advantage is that vendors work with one agent rather than receiving contact from multiple salespeople. The process is tailored to each vendor. If they are happy to involve other members of the Arizto team with interested buyers, Kayana is happy to walk them through how that works.

Her focus is simple: a fairer pricing structure, a process that suits the vendor, and a transparent online seller's dashboard add up to the most stress-free experience possible.



The Great Tomato Giveaway returns this Saturday

Come along to the River Traders Market this Saturday, 14 November, for the Heritage Food Crops Research Trust's eagerly anticipated annual tomato giveaway. With 1400 heirloom tomato plants ready to find new homes, it's a wonderful opportunity to grow something special this summer. The giveaway begins at 8.30am, with two plants per person. Bring a bag or box for your seedlings, and get in early before they're gone!

You don't need to be an experienced gardener to join in. A sunny spot, a pot or garden bed, and a little care are all it takes to grow your own tasty tomatoes. So, if you're new to growing, give it a go!

The Trust's director, Mark Christensen, says the event is part of HFCRT's long-term mission to restore the original health and flavour of the tomato – "the real tomato". Modern breeding, he explains, has changed the chemistry of most modern varieties, but the Trust's research has shown that some of the old orange and golden tomatoes retain their natural balance of nutrients.

This year's giveaway includes five remarkable heirloom varieties – Golden Grape, Mini Orange, Moonglow, Olga's Round Golden Chicken Egg and Golden Light. These tomatoes contain higher levels of bioavailable lycopene, a powerful antioxidant that supports heart health and may help reduce the risk of certain cancers. Unlike red tomatoes, the lycopene in these orange varieties is already in a form the body can easily absorb, even without cooking.



Lycopene has been linked to heart health, reduced inflammation and lower cancer risk. Research from both Auckland and Massey Universities has confirmed the unique health potential of these orange types, showing strong links between lycopene intake and reduced bone loss.

For over twenty years, the Whanganui-based Heritage Food Crops Research Trust has worked to rediscover plant varieties that bring back the flavour and nutrition lost in modern breeding. Director Mark Christensen says, "We want to make these special plants available to everyone to grow, enjoy, and benefit from."

So come along this Saturday, pick up your free plants, and discover the bright taste and wellbeing power of the real tomato.

Major summer investment in Whanganui's roads

Around 27km of Whanganui's streets and roads will be renewed as Whanganui District Council gets its summer roading programme underway.

The programme, 62 percent subsidised by NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi, includes chipseal and asphalt surfacing, road strengthening and road rehabilitation.

Whanganui Mayor Andrew Tripe says the programme reflects the council's commitment to delivering the core services the community relies on, while continuing to invest in essential infrastructure within increasingly tight financial constraints.

"Our roads are among our most important community assets, and maintaining them requires significant, ongoing investment," Mayor Andrew says.

Roads are chosen for the programme based on their condition, how they're used and the type of treatment they need. This includes inspections and condition assessments, along with things like traffic volumes, heavy vehicle use, safety and how important the route is to the wider network.

Treating a road before it wears down further helps protect the layers underneath and avoids more costly repairs down the track.

"Rebuilding a road can be like rebuilding a house's floor and foundations rather than just replacing the carpet. Applying a new chipseal, on the other hand, is like painting and weatherproofing a timber fence before it starts to rot," Mark Allingham says.

Some work will take place at night to help reduce disruption for road users, local schools and businesses. While work is underway, temporary road closures and traffic controls will be in place, and access to some properties will change.

Where possible, we'll let directly affected residents and businesses know about upcoming work a week or more before it starts. Weather or other factors can change the schedule at short notice, so advance notice may not always be possible. For the latest updates, download the Antenno app: www.whanganui.govt.nz/antenno

"We know roadworks can be disruptive, particularly when they affect your usual route or access to your property," Mark Allingham says. "We appreciate the community's patience while our crews are out there doing this important work.

"Please take care around work sites, follow the signs and traffic management, and give our crews plenty of room so they can work safely."

You can find more details about the summer roading programme including the roads scheduled for work and indicative timing at: Summer roading programme 2026-2027 Whanganui District Council.

Whanganui artist wins top award

Bianca Marriott of Whanganui has won the Taranaki National Art Awards. She entered the Category 3 – 3D section, sponsored by Bryan Roach Farms, Armstrong Farms, Debi & Andy Whitehead.

Her art is titled *Pine needle Basket, Red spines*.

This 3-dimensional work had instant pull for both judges.

"The organic nature of it, the intriguing form… much like a serpent uncurling from a blood red nest, rising and free, the binding and pulsing rhythm of the attachments harnessing the frenetic energy of spiky elements. It is just sumptuous and is so enjoyable as a celebration of material dexterity and craftsmanship."

This is the first time Bianca has entered her art into a competition and has never had work in any exhibitions, so that is a fantastic achievement and she is excited to create more artworks.



Bianca Marriott with her certificate and winning 3D artwork.

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FEST OF CULTURAL UNITY

Sat 14 Nov 10am

Majestic Square



PROGRAMME

10am	**Official Welcome** Kaumatua Uncle John Maihi Mayor Andrew Tripe
10:15am	Te Taikura o te Awa Tupua Kapahaka
10:30am	Samba Ao Ventio
10:50am	Neeti (Indian Dance)
11:00am	Born & Raised Pacifica
11:20am	Community Drumming
11:40am	Samba Ao Ventio
12noon	Sam Manzanza & Afrobeat
1pm	Fijian Youth Church Dance Group
1:20pm	Falun Dafa Instrumental
1:30pm	Talileia Entertainment Group
1:50pm	Soumya (Indian Group)
2:15pm	Dance Whanganui
2:30pm	Raffle Draws & Thanks
2:45pm	Cultural Open Mike
3pm	**Closing Karakia** Uncle John

FOOD STALLS

Born & Raised Island Food
Whanau Ropu - Hangi & BBQ
South African Food
Rivercity Filipino Club
Merry Zhong Chinese Burger
Bratwurst Bros
Lucrecia - Argentinian Food
Sri Lankan Community Food
Get a Drink
Coffee Man
Talileleia Samoan Food
Indonesian Food
Aunty Miri - Pasifika Food
AK Dumplings
Del Food Caravan
Nagazumi - Japanese Food
Lucky Yummy
Real Ice Cream
Zain - Curbside Cafe
Mini Donuts

INFOMATION

- Nagazumi Sister City - Whanganui District Council
- Ukrainian Educations & Support Trust
- Fuan Dance
- Stone Soup

CONTACT: **Aunty Hellen**
bornandraisedpasifika@xtra.co.nz 021 743 505



Celebrating multiple cultures in our community



Fest of Cultural Unity, an annual family-friendly event celebrating Whanganui's diverse cultures through ethnic cuisine and cultural performance, will mark its 22nd year on Saturday, 14 November, at Majestic Square on Victoria Avenue.

Kaumatua John Maihi and Mayor Andrew Tripe will open proceedings, with young members of the Filipino community taking their turn to shine by garlanding the VIPs.

A feast of cultural spectacle will then take to the stage to perform, including Te Taikura o te Awa Tupua Kapahaka; Samba Ao Ventio, a Brazilian Samba drumming group; Indian dance; Born and Raised Pasifika, where 30 "boss babies" from the centre will perform; then Whanganui Community Drummers and firm favourite over the years, Sam Manzanza, will perform over the lunch period.

The afternoon will feature Whanganui's Rivercity Filipino Community Group, the Fijian Youth Church Group, Falan Dafa Instrumental, Samoan Talileia Entertainment Group, Soumya Dance Group and Eliana & Belly Dancers. An exciting cultural quiz will take place, too, with prizes to be won.

Speaking of feasts – food and beverages will be on offer at stalls around the Square, from Aotearoa's own hāngī to flavours from around the globe, including Pasifika, Asian, South American, South African and European cuisine.

There's something for everyone, from entertainment to edible delights.

Whanganui Mayor Andrew Tripe says events like the Fest of Cultural Unity are more important than ever, bringing people together to celebrate both the diversity of the district and the things that unite us.

"Whanganui is proud of its cultural diversity, with residents from all over the world. It's part of what makes this such city a great place to live. We all have our own cultural identities and traditions, and it's important to have opportunities to celebrate them. But equally, events like this remind us of everything we have in common, and the strength of the community we're building together."

Hellen Puhipuhi, who has been involved since the event's inception and who has steered the ship through its changes over the years, says, "It's about whānau celebration, in a way that's typical of all our ethnic cultures – yummy food, and colourful and dynamic performances."

To round out the performances before the closing karakia from Kaumatua John Maihi, youth are invited to take part in an open mic session on the Majestic Square stage.

It's another way to help young people shine and recognise talent.

As Hellen explains, "The fest is all about nurturing our young ones, so that they feel proud of who they are and their identity, language, and culture – in respecting each other and bringing everyone together."

Hellen and her team of organisers have finely tuned the event over the years, which is largely self-funded through Born and Raised Pasifika. They are grateful for support from the team at Whanganui District Council's Welcoming Communities and most recently from Mad Media, who help with promotion.

Fest of Cultural Unity
Saturday, 14 November 2026
10am–3pm
Majestic Square

Born & Raised Pasifika
Aramoho Centre phone (06) 343 5441
bornandraisedpasifika@xtra.co.nz
Tawhero Centre phone 344 7471
pasifikalearningcentre@yahoo.com
Born & Raised Pasifika
Early Childhood Centre
2 Mitchell Street, Aramoho
and
Pasifika Learning Centre
27 Totara Street, Tawhero
are proud to support
Fest of Cultural Unity



Swim spots monitoring gets underway across the Horizons region



Taking a swim spot sample at Lake Wiritoa.

With summer around the corner, Horizons Regional Council has kicked off its contact recreation water quality testing programme this week.

Horizons environmental monitoring team leader Ian Hurst says staff began sampling water and surveying riverbeds on Monday. The team will monitor more than 80 popular swimming spots each week until 30 April 2027.

"We test for *E. coli* at freshwater sites and enterococci at coastal sites, as high amounts of these bacteria can suggest faecal contamination of a waterway," says Mr Hurst.

"If we find high levels of these bacteria at a site, it suggests other pathogens, which can make people sick, might also be present.

"Because *E. coli* and enterococci can't be seen with the naked eye, regular monitoring of swimming sites provides valuable information for people deciding where to swim."

Water samples are taken once a week before being analysed at an independent lab, with results uploaded to the LAWA website, www.lawa.org.nz, says Mr Hurst.

"If results on LAWA suggest your usual spot is unsuitable for swimming, you can check out the water quality of monitored sites nearby that might be suitable. While it's not ideal when your favourite spot isn't at its best for playing in, it does provide a great opportunity to explore somewhere new."

People should also keep an eye out for cyanobacteria, also known as potentially toxic algae, at waterways this summer, says Mr Hurst.

"Cyanobacteria can appear as black or brown mats on rocks in a river or washed up on the riverbank. In lakes, cyanobacteria float freely in the water, causing the water to become murky, or they form green scums on the lake's surface.

"Contact with cyanobacteria can cause illness in both people and animals. Dogs are particularly vulnerable because they like the musty smell of the black mats, but ingesting them can be seriously harmful.

"Be sure to keep an eye on your pets around waterways, especially if you see exposed mats of black or brown algae in the area. As we're expecting dry weather this summer, river levels might be lower, exposing more of these mats."

Mr Hurst says people should also consider wider water safety issues before heading out for a swim.

"Please stay out of water if it has rained heavily within the last 72 hours, as this can create faster-flowing water and contribute to higher levels of faecal contamination.

"It is also important to check a site carefully before entering the water, especially after heavy rain. Check for submerged hazards each time you visit, as conditions may have changed since you were last there.

"Rivers and beaches across Aotearoa New Zealand can be unpredictable, and their power is easy to underestimate. Do not enter the water alone, actively supervise children, and stay out if you are not a confident swimmer.

"Avoid swimming near unstable banks or cliff faces, and call 111 if an emergency occurs at a waterway.

"We want everyone to enjoy the region's waterways safely this summer. By checking conditions before you leave home and making sensible decisions once you arrive, you can help keep yourself, your whānau, and your pets safe.

"More information about how to stay safe in and around rivers and beaches can be found at www.watersafetynz.org."

Some smaller local parks and reserves

Have you explored all of Whanganui's parks and reserves? Why not take a ball, book or picnic and enjoy the outdoors. You may just discover a new favourite place!

Balgownie Reserve - Bignell Street, Gonville. Once the city landfill, this wetland reserve now has a number of native plantings and a walkway.

Exeter Crescent Reserve - 60 Exeter Crescent, Springvale. It is a small reserve with trees to provide shade and a park bench.

Lake Wiritoa - Kaitoke Road, Kaitoke. A coastal dune lake set among 5 hectares of park-like grounds. It is perfect for swimming as well as jet-skiing, boating and canoeing, or just hanging out with a book or having a picnic.

Matipo Park - Brunswick 4571, Brunswick is a reserve with a mix of native and exotic trees and walking tracks.

Mosquito Point - 427 Papaiti Road, Papaiti . 12km from the city centre, Mosquito Point is a popular picnic spot situated on the Whanganui River.

Handley Park - 52 Carlton Ave, Gonville offers a large flat open space and a fenced playground with swings, slides and a climbing frame.

Hogg Park - Brunswick Road, Brunswick. It is a small reserve situated on the banks of a stream.

Hutton Park - 39 Fox Road, Springvale. This park has a playground with a slide, swings, a park bench and an open grassed area bordered by trees.

Polson Park - Maxwell Avenue, Durie Hill is a community park tucked behind housing on Durie Hill. The park has multiple fruit trees.

Rogers Street Park - 70 Titoki St, Castlecliff provides a fenced playground in the middle of a large village green-style area, surrounded by housing.

Spurdle Street Reserve - 57 Treadwell Street, Springvale has a playground, an open grassed area and some larger trees for shade.

Titoki Wetland Reserve - 47 Titoki Street, Castlecliff is a remnant dune wetland, typical of coastal dune systems that would once have been commonplace throughout the area.

Webb Road Reserve - Webb Road, Durie Hill is a small reserve with a park bench overlooking a small playground with slides and swings.

Wembley Place Reserve - 30A Wembley Place, Whanganui East is a small neighbourhood playground in Whanganui East that has direct access to Wembley Park sports fields.

William Birch Park - State Highway 3, located just outside of Pākaraka, is a magical spot with a stream running through a reserve. A great place for a picnic.

Windsor Park - 18 Windsor Terrace, Durie Hill adjacent to Durie Hill Bowling Club, this small reserve on Windsor Street has two park benches under shady trees next to a mid-sized playground for younger children.

- Taken from the Whanganui District Council website



Creative exhibition showed outstanding artistic talent in Whanganui

Judd Bailey, a master carver and artist who divides his time between New Zealand and Asia, was asked to organise an exhibition showcasing the creative excellence of Whanganui Creatives for the Festival of Design Aotearoa, recently held in Whanganui. The result was *He Pune Tohunga – The Well of Master Creatives*, a showcase of 25 artists from the Whanganui region.

The exhibition highlighted why Whanganui deserves its reputation as a City of Design, featuring weaving (raranga), carving (whakairo), glass, fine art, photography and sound recording. More than 1000 people visited between 16 and 25 October. "You look at the amount of people that visited. It certainly ticked the box of something worthwhile to come to Whanganui for," Judd said.

Whanganui & Partners played a key role in bringing the festival to New Zealand's only UNESCO City of Design. Judd praised Sam Ryan and Rachel Hoskin for securing the funding that made the exhibition possible.

Two $1000 prizes marked the finale: a Judges' Award and a People's Choice Award. "The creatives sort of worked around the clock to get items ready for it," Judd recalled.

Marty Winchcombe won the Judges' Award with his bone carving *Breathe*. "It's outstanding," Judd said of Winchcombe's piece. "And fabulous that Marty won because he's put a lot of work into his craft, and he's starting to get quite well known," Judd said.



Marty Winchcombe's carving won Judges' Award.



Peoples's Choice Award by Kerry Brider.

The People's Choice used a simple token-jar system at each exhibit. Kerry Brider took the award with a distinctive Gimli carving (the dwarf from Tolkien's legendarium). Brider has been carving for more than 30 years. Judd was pleased to see the recognition: "People have just been moved by his carvings. It's great to see him get the recognition, too,"

Whether prize-winners or not, the quality across the show was outstanding, with work from printmaker Graham Hall, jeweller Frances Stachl, glass artist David Traub, Marty Vreede, master carver and tattooist Hemi Te Peeti, along with Pākaraka carver Jason Hina and master weavers Trina Taurua, Emily Huwyler and Nadia Tamihana. Felter Susan Shand exhibited her unique creations alongside others such as international potters Aaron and Saori Scythe, multimedia creator Hemi Kiwikiwi, carver Te Ururangi, and legends Natasha and Sacha Keating.

Damn Raucous Brass unleashes debut album in Whanganui



The band and team producing the video for "Walking Down the Street". Credit: Abby Kingi of Lamp Studios Ltd, videographer Sacha Keating and Fergus Reid of Whanganui Tech Services.

After 10 years of gigs, jams, hangs and the occasional beer, Damn Raucous Brass is finally releasing its music into the wild digital wilderness of YouTube, SoundCloud and Spotify.

The public can hear the eight-track album at the exact moment it drops: Friday, 13 November, at Porridge Watson, Whanganui. Doors open for the release party at 8pm, with entry just $10.

The album captures the band's roaring live sound: blues-soaked tunes, bright driving horns, hefty tuba and kit drums. It is fresh Whanganui music made for dancing, screaming and possibly alarming nearby furniture.

Written by frontman, guitarist and trombone jammer Hamish Jellyman, the album reflects years of creative chaos.

Highlights include "When You Know You Know, You Know", packed with enormous horns, face-first jams and lyrics pondering life's quirkier questions, and the album's single, "Walking Down the Street", which delivers fat, funky tuba energy designed to get feet moving, with the kit adding to the funkiness for your dancing pleasure.

The question is, who do you share the funk with? Well, with these guys.

Damn Raucous Brass features Bruce Jellyman, Hamish Jellyman, Tahu Pikimaui, Chris Scudder, Richard Singleton, Mathew Huirua and Nigel Bateman, with Hayden Davis on sound.

Recorded in Whanganui, the album was engineered by David Griffith – resident studio magician – then mixed by Lee Prebble of Wellington's Surgery Studios, the acknowledged audio wizard.

The result is a full-bodied blast of groove-driven New Orleans brass-band energy: loud, live and ready to escape.

The album is available on all streaming sites from this Friday, and even better, you can pre-order CDs by email at bruce.jellyman@gmail.com, and we will get it to you asap, with delivery in around two weeks' time. CDs are just $20.

Follow the band at facebook.com/damnraucousbrass.

Diwali 2026

Thank you to all in the community for making this year's Diwali a great success, and also for helping us celebrate our 11th anniversary!

What a night!

This year's Diwali celebration was one of the grandest and most successful Whanganui has seen in 10 years, hosting nearly 950 attendees.

We were honoured to welcome our special guests MP Carl Bates, Pasifika Leader Hellen Puhipuhi, and Indian Community Leader Vivek Bhangia.



Our generous sponsors

Without your support, this event would not have been possible.

A heartfelt thank you to:

- *COG*
- *Whanganui Community Foundation*
- *Creative Communities Scheme*
- *Mobile Bitz Whanganui*
- *Castlecliff Hotel - Balwinder Kaur*
- *Whanganui Spices (69 Guyton Street)*
- *Carlton Street Dairy and Takeaways*
- *Hospital Shop*
- *Shotz Bar*
- *RE-Burger - Sonali & Rishi*
- *Dilpreet Lidhar*
- *Manawatu Punjabi Association*
- *Spicy Fare Takeaway (Dublin Street)*
- *Kerala Association Whanganui*

Special acknowledgements and thanks

- *Te Ora Hou: For generously sharing your kitchen facilities and sending an amazing team of volunteers to help serve our community dinner.*
- *Sergeant Amaninder Sandhu and NZ Police: For organising site patrols to keep our event safe and smooth for all families.*
- *Chef Bhagwan Singh (Spicy Fare, Dublin St): For your ongoing dedication and for preparing an abundance of delicious food.*
- *Our Event Leads: MC Lalina Dayal, DJ Cristian, and Programme Coordinator Sunitaa Dwivedi for managing a flawless, on-the-dot schedule.*
- *The Whanganui Community: Thank you for filling every seat, bringing incredible energy, and sharing such uplifting feedback.*

Thank you for celebrating with us and supporting cultural unity in Whanganui!

Report by: Geeta Singh, President, Lotus Indian Group

Lotus Indian Group - Whanganui

AGE CONCERN WHANGANUI
He Manaakitanga
Kaumātua Aotearoa

Secret Santa Gift Appeal



If you would like to donate a gift for our older residents, please drop into our office at 164 St Hill Street by December 10. Thank you!

Secret Santa gifts wanted for older people in the community

Age Concern is organising "Secret Santa Gifts" for the eighth year. As their poster says, "We are collecting gifts to share the Christmas spirit," helping make Christmas a happy time for older people in the community.

It is a popular event each year, and the number of gifts and parcels has increased, even when people are having financial difficulties. Manager Michelle Malcolm says, "We wondered whether the impact of the cost of living might have reduced the gift giving, but instead, it increased last year. This year, we are hoping to provide Secret Santa gifts to over 300 people in our community."

How to donate

If you would like to donate a gift, please drop the unwrapped gift into their office at 164 St Hill Street or ring on 345 1799 and they can pick up.

The office is open Monday to Thursday, 8.30am–4.30pm, and they will be collecting gifts until Thursday, 10 December.

Once all the gifts have come in, they are arranged into different categories of edibles, toiletries and knick-knacks. they will then be wrapped into a parcel, along with a card and they will be delivered on the week beginning 14 December.

The gifts include chocolates of all types, Christmas cakes and tarts. One year, a person donated teacups filled with lollies. There are handkerchiefs, puzzles, puzzle books, notebooks, pens and adult colouring-in books. "It is amazing what we get," says Michelle.



Presents ready to be delivered.

"The team have a great time doing the deliveries, and there are a number of surprised recipients when we arrive at the door."

The Age Concern office closes at 4.30pm on 22 December and reopens on 11 January 2027.



Clarky, one of volunteers, with Santa.



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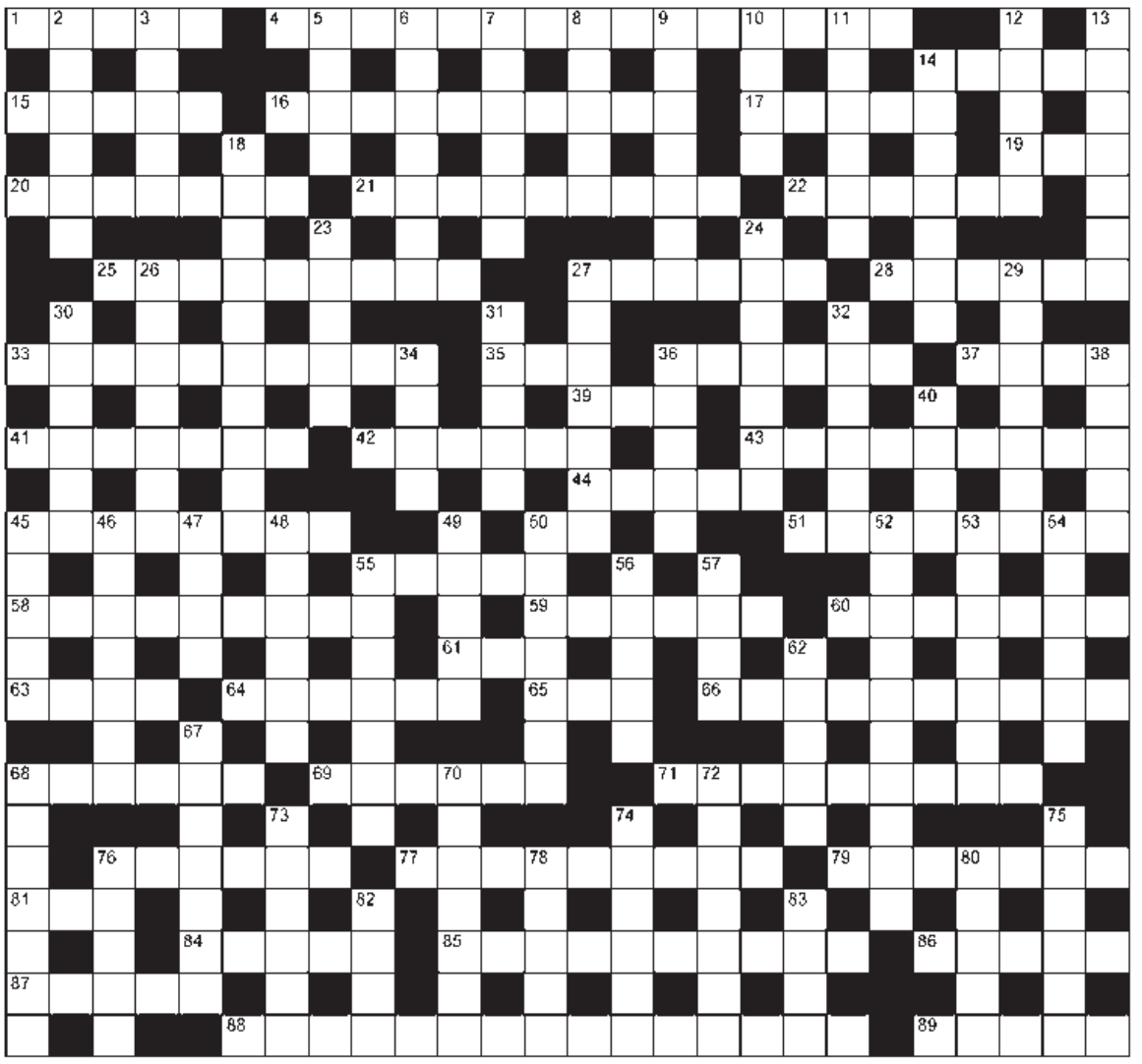
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Jumbo crossword

ACROSS
1 Severe (5)
4 Head straight towards (4,1,7,3)
14 Distress light (5)
15 Left over (5)
16 Temperature-regulating device (10)
17 Hot drink (5)
19 Drops of condensation (3)
20 Jewellery item (7)
21 Paper for dailies (9)
22 Indifference (6)
25 Sure thing (9)
27 Pandemonium (6)
28 Set (6)
33 Diligently thorough (10)
35 Signal (3)
36 Boat weight (6)
37 Heart (4)
39 Intention (3)
41 Punishment (7)
42 Adorn (6)
43 Alienated (9)
44 Knock over (5)
45 Happy-go-lucky (8)
50 Skyward (2)
51 Rain moat (anag)(8)
55 Earthenware beer mug (5)
58 Sworn statement (9)
59 Trampers (6)
60 Got away (7)
61 Take to court (3)
63 Toss (4)
64 Feel remorse (6)
65 Total (3)
66 Creating the effect or appearance of (10)
68 Hypothesis (6)
69 Of ruddy complexion (6)
71 Courage in adversity (9)
76 Heavy gun (6)
77 Pigheaded (9)
79 Pass sentence on (7)
81 Polite address for man (3)
84 Sample (5)
85 Of no real importance or relevance (10)
86 Fill with horror (5)
87 Film (5)
88 Just beaten (6,2,3,4)
89 Wobbly (5)

DOWN
2 Reproduced (6)
3 Weary (5)
5 Throb (4)
6 Sincere (7)
7 Window-shop (6)
8 Penetrate (5)
9 Chanted (7)
10 Engrave with acid (4)
11 Live in (6)
12 Bow-legged (5)
13 Linking (7)
14 True (7)
18 Coach (10)
23 Fulcrum (5)
24 Small axe (7)
26 Do like (7)
27 Separation (5-2)
29 Long dry spell (7)
30 Skin disorder (6)
31 Loose hillside stones (5)
32 Natural fabric (6)
34 Storage building (4)
36 Accumulate over time (5)
38 Senior tribe member (5)
40 Tranquil (4)
45 Conflict with (5)
46 Mediate (7)
47 Lose colour (4)
48 Veined (anag)(6)
49 Banquet (5)
50 Inaudible (7)
52 Heat-proofing (10)
53 Acclimatised (7)
54 Seas (6)
55 Make jump (7)
56 Ability (5)
57 Weapons (4)
62 Specks of soot (5)
67 Rock (7)
68 Pair (7)
70 Construct again (7)
72 Projecting rock (7)
73 Miniaturised tree (6)
74 Grab (6)
75 Board (6)
76 Hunger for (5)
78 Entice (5)
80 Extent downward (5)
82 Seaweed (4)
83 Planet (4)



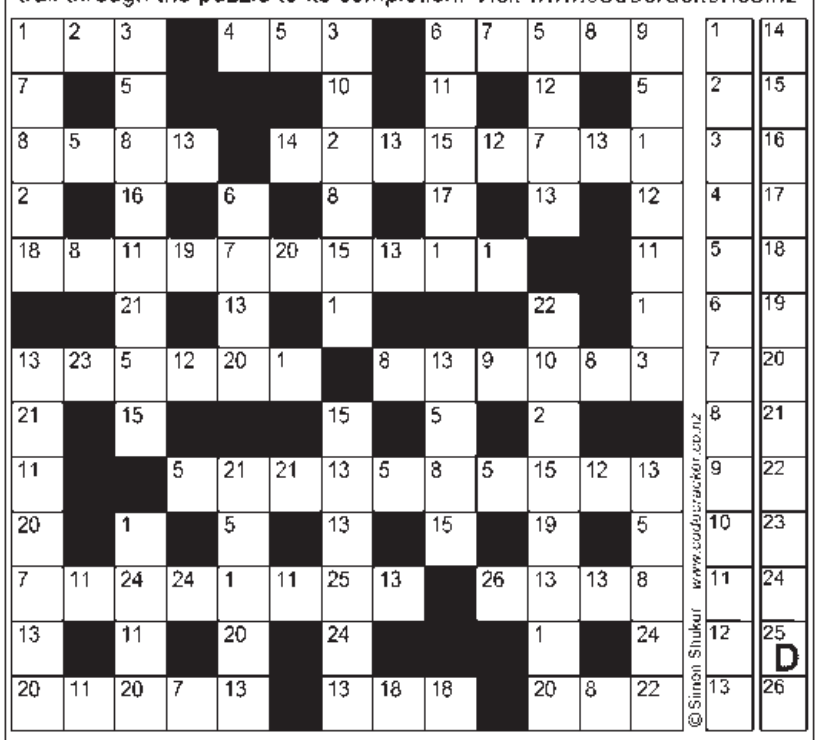
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SIMON SHUKER'S CODE-CRACKER Extra 933

EACH number in our Code-Cracker grid represents a different letter of the alphabet. For example, today 25 represents D, so fill in D every time the figure 25 appears. You have one letter in the control grid to start you off. Enter it in the appropriate squares in the main grid and solve the starter word. Fill in other squares in the main and control grids with the found letters and look for the next word. Follow the word trail through the puzzle to its completion. *Visit www.codecracker.co.nz*



Sudoku

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

HARD

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

Previous solution

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

Previous solution

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

Previous crossword solution

ACROSS: 1 Cartoon, 4 Pawnbroker, 9 Crumble, 13 Navy, 14 Adhere, 15 Debate, 16 Scarlet, 19 Consultant, 20 Interval, 21 Sneak, 24 Taunts, 25 Madame, 27 Herbivore, 32 Prompted, 33 Starch, 34 Icicles, 38 Mortuary, 39 Divide, 40 Seer, 41 Dirge, 42 Lance, 45 Left high and dry, 52 Cobra, 55 Anvil, 56 Limp, 57 Statue, 58 Fabulous, 61 Eagerly, 62 Boards, 63 Insanity, 66 Schooling, 68 Thawed, 69 Scythe, 73 Diary, 74 Vagabond, 76 Misleading, 81 Fervent, 82 Libido, 83 Leased, 84 Fund, 85 Gymnast, 86 Congregate, 87 Society.
DOWN: 1 Cynic, 2 Ravenous, 3 Nudity, 4 Preen, 5 Weep, 6 Bedtime, 7 Orbits, 8 Enter, 10 Rock, 11 Mariner, 12 Leeway, 17 Subterfuge, 18 Maybe, 22 Sandwich, 23 Evict, 24 Thermal, 26 Ante, 28 Excused, 29 Amoral, 30 Camera, 31 Ledger, 33 Swing, 35 Cairo, 36 Grin, 37 Hear, 43 Annual, 44 Chime, 46 Evil, 47 Typhoon, 48 Insert, 49 Heals, 50 Nautical, 51 Yearns, 52 Crustacean, 53 Book, 54 Absence, 59 Floor, 60 Isle, 64 Cloak, 65 Attitude, 67 Caravan, 68 Tadpole, 70 Likely, 71 Joking, 72 Pliers, 75 Amigo, 77 Image, 78 Giddy, 79 Onus, 80 Ulna.

5x5

T		R		T
	P		C	
R		T		D
	R		A	
S		O		Y

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

Previous solution

T	R	A	M	P
R	O	T	O	R
A	B	O	D	E
M	O	N	E	Y
S	T	E	M	S

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

WHAT'S ON IN THE COMMUNITY

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

Arthritis Whanganui Support Group
The next 3 monthly Evening Support Group Meeting is on Wednesday 18th November at 7.30pm in the Upper Lounge, Christ Church Community Centre, 243 Wicksteed Street. Our sign will be out. This month's speaker is Consultant Geriatrician Dr Jan Gregson. The topic of her talk will be "Being Positive During the Advanced Aging Process". This is an open meeting and all are welcome. The purpose of this group is to offer evening support to all those affected by arthritis in its many different forms. A koha would be appreciated. If possible, please register your interest by phoning or texting David 021-0260-1319.

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

Community Education Whanganui
Community Education Whanganui deliver in-person learning with local, experienced tutors. Explore woodwork, songwriting, landscape painting, yoga, music, permaculture, pottery and plenty more. From one-day workshops to six-week courses, there's something to suit everyone's schedule. If you're keen to make, move, grow, or create, there's a course waiting for you. Enrol online: www.communityeducation.nz or phone 06-345-4717, 10–3pm weekdays.

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

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.

Heart Brain Coherence
What is it? How do we do it? How do we measure it? What are the benefits? Education and consultations. Phone/text 021-165-8961. Coherence 4 Health | www.coherence4health.com | clangmead@slingshot.co.nz

Matarawa Community Church
The place to be on Saturday 15th November is our beautiful Church where you will find warm fellowship and inspiring message and of course, an enjoyable afternoon tea. We look forward to welcoming you at 2pm.

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.

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.

The Poultry Group
Meets this Saturday 14th November at Mathieson St hall. 12pm start. Poultry for sale: hens, roosters, ducks, bantams, eggs to hatch and eat. Also Poultry feed and gear. Plants and produce table. Cuppa available. Great chance to talk to breeders. All welcome, including beginners. Enquiries 06-345-8718.

U3A Whanganui
Coming up is the last U3A Whanganui lecture for the year, by Emeritus Professor Vince Neall from Massey University, on the topic of Volcanic eruptions. It is at UCOL room 2.15, at 10am on Friday 13 November and entry is by Koha.

Whanganui Amnesty
will be at the Culture of Unity Festival, Majestic Square this Saturday morning, 14th November. Come and talk to us about what we do and how you can help us stand up for human rights, both locally and overseas.

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.

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.

CyberSec Women of the Year 2026 award to Katja Feldtmann



Katja Feldtmann with her trophy at the awards.

Katja Feldtmann, a Whanganui-based cybersecurity professional and founder of Cybershore, was recently named CyberSec Woman of the Year 2026 at the national Cyber Excellence Awards, held in Auckland on 29 October.

The award recognises contributions to New Zealand's cybersecurity industry, including professional leadership, innovation and advocacy.

Katja says, "As someone running a cybersecurity consultancy from Whanganui, rather than one of the larger centres, it was particularly meaningful to receive this recognition."

Beyond her professional work, Katya has been advocating for stronger privacy protections for New Zealanders.

"Earlier this year, I launched a parliamentary petition calling for stronger enforcement powers and penalties under the Privacy Act 2020, prompted by concerns about the consequences of serious data breaches and the limited accountability organisations currently face."

The petition received support from more than 1500 people and progressed through Parliament's Petitions Committee.

In August, the Committee recommended that the Government review the Privacy Act, including consideration of emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence. The Government's response is due on 24 November 2026, making this a timely opportunity to revisit the issue and what stronger privacy protections could mean for everyday New Zealanders.

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Horizons Notes

A personal view with Cr Alan Taylor, Horizons Regional Council



Local government reform remains on the cards.

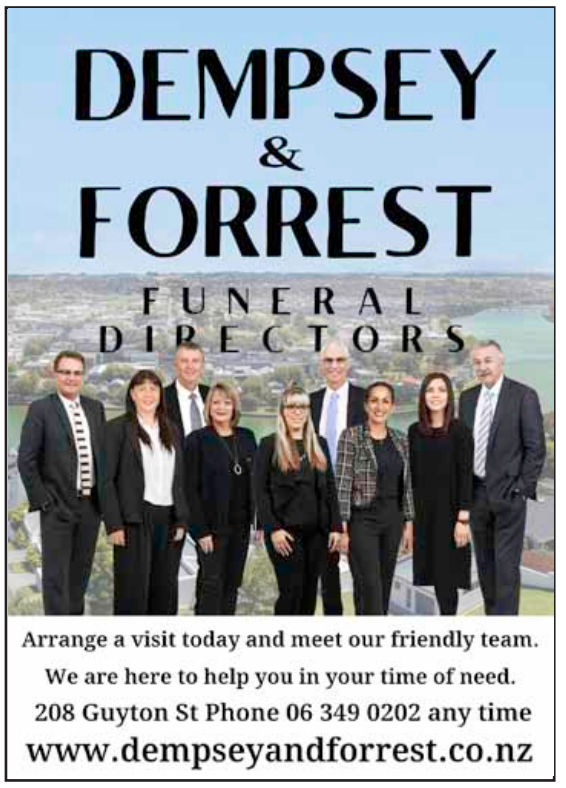
This ill-conceived demand has been so rushed that many councils either failed, or chose not, to meet Government's "Head Start" deadline which called for an unreasonable lodgement time for initial amalgamation proposals by groups of councils. This failure meant they would default to the "Backstop" category wherein Minister Bishop said he "would do it for them". When the deadline arrived, Government itself was not ready, lost on where to go next, and so sidelined the exercise until after the general election. The extensive cost of this near-futile exercise must be carried by ratepayers with the Minister for Local Government, Simon Watts, unrepentantly doubling down on that.

While considerable councillor and staff time devoted to the process has incurred ratepayer cost, Councils have also been overloaded with having to pursue the complex requirements of formulating legally required Term Plans. The amalgamation proposals were a pointless political distraction. The cry from central government politicians across the spectrum was "councils need to reform, they are out of control, they duplicate services and are inefficient". Nowhere was there a recognition of the root cause of our fundamental difficulty: how local government is funded. That is for central government to sort out.

Councils are also facing the proposition of rates capping. That's particularly ironic given the wastage associated with the amalgamation programme, inflation, and increasing demands made upon them by central government. It's notable that any amalgamation/reform that eventuates is likely to change little more than the way you are represented by councillors. There is little chance that amalgamations will see rate reductions.

Central government has recently passed critical legislation that requires our response. That entails replacing the Resource Management Act, the Regulatory Standards Act, and demanding changes to council committee structures. All this is on top of our business as usual.

I believe that Central Government's role is to solve the council funding dilemma, set and then stop messing about with our principal obligations, highlight our core responsibilities (under the Local Government Act) and then get the hell out of our kitchen. I am heartily sick of its continual, and growing, disingenuous interference.



Recent Bereavements

Sadly passed away recently...

Heather LACY (nee Caird)
on 10 November 2026, aged 88 years.

Graeme John LEE
on 3 November 2026, aged 79 years.

Vivienne Joan Pirihata MATTHEWS
on 4 November 2026, aged 73 years.

Helen Rangiwhakaoma Janet TAMATEA
on 4 November 2026, aged 76 years.

Aadn Paul TUME
on 9 November 2026, aged 64 years.



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PUBLIC NOTICE

SECTION 101
SALE AND SUPPLY OF ALCOHOL ACT 2012

The Burrow Cellars, 38 Taupo Quay, Whanganui has made application to the District Licensing Committee at Whanganui for the renewal of an On Licence in respect of the premises situated at 38 Taupo Quay, Whanganui, known as **The Burrow Cellars.**

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

The days on which and the hours during which alcohol is sold under the licence are **Monday to Sunday, 9.00am to 12.00am midnight.**

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

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

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

This is the first publication of this notice.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

SECTION 101
SALE AND SUPPLY OF ALCOHOL ACT 2012

LunarTech Limited, 30 Drews Avenue, Whanganui has made application to the District Licensing Committee at Whanganui for a variation of conditions on renewal of an On Licence in respect of the premises situated at 30 Drews Avenue, Whanganui known as **Porridge Watson**.

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

The days on which and the hours during which alcohol is sold under the licence are **Monday to Sunday 10.00am until 1.00am the following day.**

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

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

No objection to the renewal of the licence may be made in relation to a matter other than a matter specified in section 131(1) of the Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012.

This is the second publication of this notice.

The first notice was published on November 5, 2026.

TE KAUNIHERA Ā-ROHE O Whanganui DISTRICT COUNCIL

Public Notice of Supplementary Summary of Late Submission and Call for Further Submissions to Plan Change 66 - Miscellaneous 3 to the Operative Whanganui District Plan

Pursuant to Clause 7 Schedule 1 of the Resource Management Act 1991 (the Act), the Whanganui District Council has prepared a supplementary summary of the late submission received for proposed Plan Change 66 to the Whanganui District Plan.

Further submissions may **ONLY** be made in support of or in opposition to the matters raised within the Late Submission 1 - Attrill.

A copy of late submission and the supplementary summary of submission can be inspected during normal office hours at:

- Customer Services Desk at Whanganui District Council, 101 Guyton Street; or
- Public Libraries at Queens Park and Gonville; or
- Available on Council's website under Plan Change 66 - Miscellaneous 3

The Council invites further written submissions from persons eligible to make a further submission under clause 8 of Schedule 1 of the Act.

A further submission must be made in the prescribed form, Form 6, and must state whether you wish to be heard.

You may make a further submission by using the online submission tool or alternatively by sending a written submission to Whanganui District Council, P O Box 637, Whanganui 4541 or email PlanningPolicy@whanganui.govt.nz. The submission must be in form 6 and state whether or not you wish to be heard. Copies of form 6 are available from the Council offices and website (see above). Electronic submissions do not require a signature.

Further submissions close at 5pm on Thursday 26th November 2026.

Doug Tate
Chief Executive

12 November 2026

whanganui.govt.nz



at Porridge Watson
Friday 13th November 8pm

KAI IWI SCHOOL & DISTRICTS

150 YEARS

A big thank you to all who made our 150th celebration very special over Labour Weekend. A lot of fun, laughter and reminiscing was had by all. We especially wish to thank the following SPONSORS who made our job a whole lot easier. You are very much appreciated.

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12 Downes Avenue	NP BEO	$625,000	1.00 - 1.30pm
17 Bell Street		$855,000	2.00 - 2.30pm
32 Purnell Street		$850,000	3.00 - 3.30pm

BEO - Buyer Enquiry Over
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ARIZTO

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

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SPORTS NEWS

Four Whanganui gymnasts compete in national competition

Four gymnasts from Whanganui Boys and Girls Gym Club qualified to compete at the Gymnastics New Zealand National Championships in Tauranga. We are incredibly proud of Hadleigh Smith, Juliet Smith, Alexandra (Ali) Rennie and Olivia Christian.

Ali shares her experience of qualifying for and attending the national championships for the first time.

Alexandra Rennie – my experience of competing at 2026 Gymnastics National competition

My national's experience was mostly the build-up towards getting there. I didn't think I would actually get to go to the nationals as I hadn't been picked for the team, just to find out I could attend as an individual, I remember when I found out I was quite shocked because I would have never thought I would have been picked.

For a month, Juliet, Olivia and I trained in preparation for the nationals and had to get our routines as good as we could possibly get them. As the day got closer, I could feel myself getting more nervous, especially when training in Palmerston North.

I remember when it was finally time to leave for Tauranga, I was excited but also incredibly nervous as we had podium training later that day. At podium training we had to get used to the equipment and make sure we were ready for competing in two days. On Tuesday, the day after podium training, we watched Olivia compete. It was nerve-wracking just to watch, knowing I was going to be competing the very next day. Finally, the day of the nationals came, step 6s were competing first, warmup started at 7.30am. When we got there, it felt surreal. I was finally about to compete, and the day had finally come. Once warmup was finished, we were finally lining up to march onto the floor. We marched on and finally made it to our first apparatus. Our first apparatus was bars. Before I competed, I was very nervous. It was very intimidating and felt much bigger than the average competition. After I competed on bars, my nerves seemed to get better. It just felt like a normal competition, just a lot bigger and tougher competition. I did well all around. I felt very confident on beam and floor; my best score was vault. I thought nationals was my best competition all year round and the training leading up to it had paid off, even if I didn't make it to the second day, I still felt proud of my performance.

The nationals was an interesting experience, and I felt proud to be able to represent the Whanganui-Manawatū region at such a big competition.



Hadleigh, Juliet, Olivia and Ali

Bridge Club results

Whanganui Bridge Club results week ending 6 November

Monday Ladder: N/S 1. M Brewer M Dawson 59.23 2. K Coombe E Topfer 55.06 3. B Cantillon K Moore 54.76 **E/W** 1=. S Brotherston L Rowland 55.65 1=. V Bartrum A Hodges 55.65 3. V Kay N Wight 53.57

Tuesday Ellery Pairs: N/S 1. S Watson P Verhoek 58.07 2. D Haynes P Paterson 57.55 3. R Nightingale G Handley 56.51 **E/W** 1. B Franklin-Browne K Verhoek 63.35 2. A Thirtle J Dodds 59.94 3. R Lakeland D Nightingale 52.27 **Overall Winners Tuesday Ellery Pairs:** Sue Watson & Pieter Verhoek

Wednesday Miro Pairs: N/S 1. J Lambert F Simpson 62.50 2. R Campbell J Hagen 59.38 3. K Rainey C Winton 48.13 **E/W** 1. B Eriksen S Rainey 75.63 2=. P Irvin B Rhodes 55.63 2=. J Coxon C Rothman 55.63

Wednesday Social: N/S 1. B Franklin-Browne J Dodds 62.50 2. S Walkinton S Watson 57.74 3. I Back J Donkervoort 56.55 **E/W** 1. A Thirtle G MacLachlan 60.12 2. R Sigley B Annear 55.65 3. B Bull A Sutherland 50.89

Friday Social: N/S 1. A Foley J Jones 67.05 2. G Handley C Pepperell 66.25 3. A Thirtle A Bennett 62.14 4. N Kennedy Pam Loader 60.80 5. P MacLachlan J Scott 57.37 6. S Cvitanovich J Rapson 54.22 **E/W** 1. B Franklin-Browne J Dodds 65.92 2. J Hore S Watson 57.64 3. A Hodges J Wagstaff 55.69 4. C Chesswas J Zhang 53.88 5. C Veltman C Killington 53.85 6. Diana & David Harrison 51.43

Whanganui's PAK'nSAVE 3 Bridges Marathon marks 23 years



Whanganui's PAK'nSAVE 3 Bridges Marathon is set to celebrate its 23rd edition. This year it is also hosting the Athletics New Zealand National Marathon Championship and anticipating a turnout of more than 1200 runners.

This sustained growth reflects the event's strong reputation and the dedication of a volunteer-run operation that has become a fixture on the New Zealand running calendar.

Organiser and Wanganui Harrier Club president Rob Conder, who has led the event for 11 years, notes the steady rise in participation from around 300 competitors in its early days. A core objective of the club remains affordability, ensuring the event stays accessible compared to other races nationwide. Organisers are also especially proud of the warm, family-friendly atmosphere that has been successfully fostered at the event over the years.

Event details and course information

Entry fees range from $15 to $80 (additional cost to enter NZ Marathon applies). PAK'nSAVE marks its 11th year as a major partner. The PAK'nSAVE marathon and Property Brokers Half Marathon are run on an IAAF/AIMS-certified course. Other events include the Unichem Pharmacy Quarter Marathon, Craigs Investment Partners 5km Relay, The Hits 5km and The Frontrunner kid's race. All finishers receive medals, with options to enter as either walkers or runners.

The course starts and finishes at Kowhai Park on 6 December 2026. On race morning, the Town Bridge will close from about 3.30am and reopen before 3pm. The early closure allows for the official AIMS-certified measuring to take place, allowing times to be used to qualify for major international races such as the New York Marathon.

Logistics and community support

Race packs can be collected from the Whanganui Girls' College Gym up to 40 minutes before each start. Participants and spectators can also enjoy complimentary refreshments at Kowhai Park, including a sausage sizzle courtesy of Whanganui Vet Services and bacon butties provided by Farmlands Foods. Additional food will be available to purchase from a variety of food trucks.

Between 50 and 70 volunteers will be on duty on race day. Rob Conder extends gratitude to the dedicated volunteers, PAK'nSAVE and all event sponsors for their continued support.

Pre-race course preparation and post-race clean up by volunteers, along with assistance from the Whanganui District Council, improves the route's cleanliness and quality for everyone, year-round. Many volunteers return year after year to be part of the vibrant atmosphere and enjoy being looked after on race day – if you would like to join the team, please sign up via the volunteer tab on the Whanganui 3 Bridges Marathon website.

With spectator numbers estimated at roughly three times the field size, the event will bring a noticeable economic and community boost to Whanganui on race weekend. A mention must also go to the Whanganui Community for their patience and encouragement during the event.

The 23rd PAK'nSAVE Whanganui 3 Bridges Marathon is shaping up to be the biggest yet – a testament to two decades of community effort and a clear signal of the event's ongoing potential.

To register, visit whanganuithreebridges.co.nz

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Beds R us

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NZ'S LARGEST RANGE OF Sleepyhead

Elements Wave 3 'Grab & Go' Mattress
Everyday Low Price.



Available rolled in a bag for easy transport. Grab one in-store.

QUEEN MATTRESS ONLY $459

Serenity Breeze Bed
SUPER DEAL 60% off.



NZ-made pocket springs give targeted support for an undisturbed sleep.

QUEEN NOW FROM $1,499

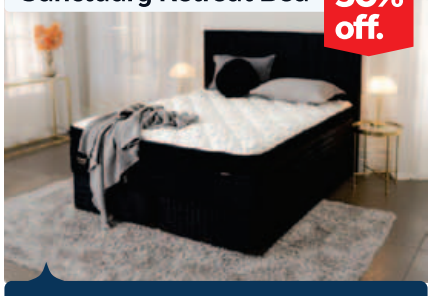
Swisstek Pinnacle Bed
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Delivers elevated comfort, responsive support, and a cooler night's sleep.

QUEEN NOW $5,399

Sanctuary Retreat Bed
50% off.



Sleepyhead's Sanctuary range, the most beautiful sleep ever made.

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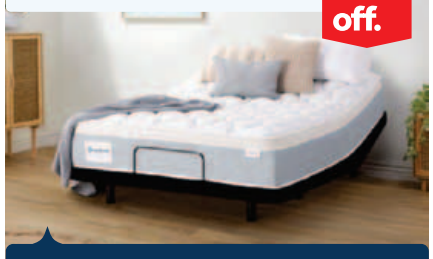
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Serenity Eden Queen on AdjustWave 1 Base
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Our adjustable beds provide everyday comfort that moves with you.

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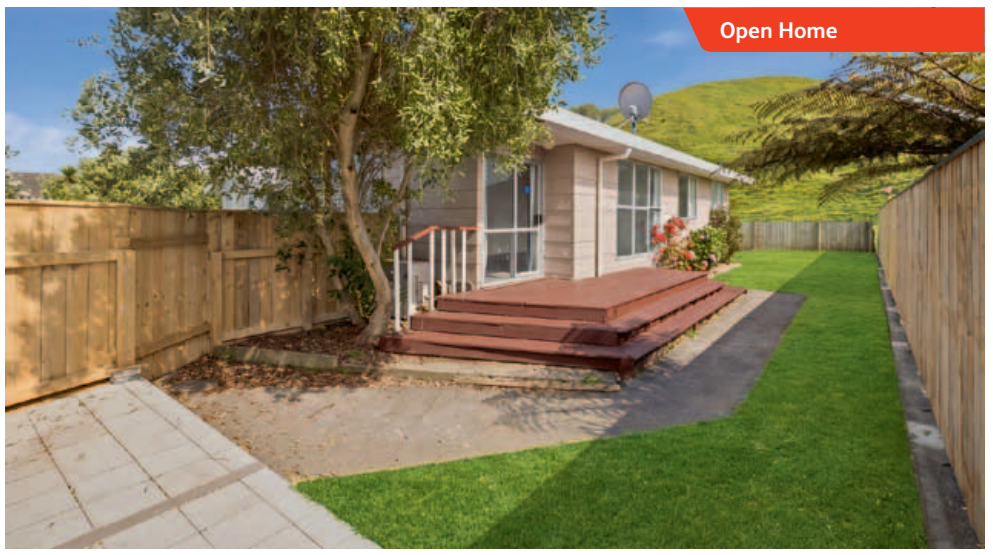
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Smart buying

3 1 1 1

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Web pb.co.nz/WGU228989

A great opportunity for first home buyers, downsizers or investors looking for an affordable property. Set in a quiet cul-de-sac with a rural outlook, this three-bedroom home offers comfortable, practical living with plenty to like. The open-plan kitchen, dining and lounge are light-filled and connect to a sunny deck overlooking the rural backdrop. Three bedrooms with built-in wardrobes, a separate laundry, heat pump, HRV system, aluminium joinery and a large carport complete the package. The flat, fully fenced section is easy to maintain.

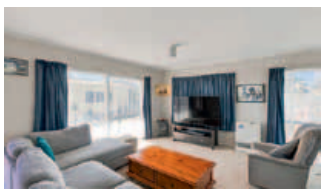


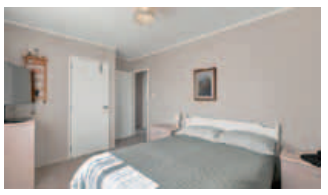
Nikki Greenwood
M 021 136 8500

Gonville 81A Swiss Avenue









2010 built and double glazed

3 1 1 1

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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