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November 19, 2026

An unforgettable party planned for Vintage Weekend

BY LOUISE FOLLETT

The much-awaited Vintage Weekend (January 22-25) Saturday evening party will be double the fun in 2027, ready to welcome locals and visitors alike.

Fergus Reid and Germa Haapu, event coordinators for Property Brokers Vintage Weekend and the Mainstreet Caboodle, respectively, have put their heads together and devised a cunning plan to bring two performance hubs to the river end of town.

The Caboodle finale will be back at the bridge end of Victoria Avenue, with music, eats and drinks on hand for the much-loved celebration, and Drews Ave will add its own distinct vibes, offering a different serving of music and hospitality.

It's what the twosome refer to as "The Block Party" and will keep the area pumping from 2pm until 11pm.

Easy access to the two venues through the art-filled "corridor" from Victoria Ave to Drews will make it easy to get a taste of both venues. There's even a rumour of a nearby night market.

The Property Brokers stage will be set on Drews Ave, leaving plenty of room to dance and connect, with tables and chairs for a break.

Some of the bands putting instruments through their paces on the Drews Ave stage, in no particular appearance order, are: Whiskey Mama, Roots Provider, Light's Go Out, Porridge Watson Jazz Band, The Replicants – everything from a seasoned five-piece rock outfit "cool jazz", reggae classics and originals, to setlists ranging from 1960s rock classics right through to modern hits.

A taste of the bands who will be bringing down the house on the Caboodle Vic Ave Block One stage: BB & The Bullets, Undercover, River City Riff Raff, East Band, The Rustlers – all delivering high-energy, riff-driven rock, country rock, originals, rockabilly, and energetic 80s and 90s that is all guaranteed to pack the dancefloor.

If you want to party like it's 1999, or honestly pretty much any decade post-1940, The Vintage Weekend Block Party is the place to be.

The Caboodle, which begins Saturday morning, will start with Wheels on Victoria, a parade of vintage and classic cars "parking up" from block 2 to block 4 of Victoria Ave.

Music will entertain at Majestic Square and throughout the city centre, classic bikes will be back on Guyton St, and classic tractors will "occupy" part of Ridgway Street. The Fashion Parade is back on the menu too.

"This event has been a success for years because of the collaboration between the Vintage Weekend Trust and Mainstreet, so that needs to continue, and now we're building bigger and better," says Fergus Reid.

"We'd like to thank Property Brokers and Whanganui District Council, along with all the businesses, organisations and volunteers who contribute to Whanganui Vintage Weekend."

Germa and Fergus are committed to their shared goal of delivering an unforgettable party for the good folk of Whanganui and beyond.

Whanganui Vintage Weekend began in 2012 as an adjunct to a large international-style vintage car rally hosted by the Wanganui Vintage Car Club.

Thanks to the Vintage Weekend Trust, Mainstreet, the Vintage Car Club, and the support of creative individuals and organisations, the event has become a staple on the Whanganui calendar.

For details of Friday night's opening event, see page [x] of the RCP. The full programme of events for Saturday, Sunday and Monday will be available soon at whanganuivintageweekend.nz



Last year's Whanganui Caboodle during Vintage Weekend in the Bridge Block. *Photo sourced from Mainstreet Whanganui Facebook page.*

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Knitted birds on beanies to raise funds for Tarapuruhi Bushy Park

Tarapuruhi Bushy Park, a 99-hectare predator-fenced forest sanctuary near Whanganui, ranks among the top 25 ecological restoration projects in Australia and New Zealand. A haven for native birds and a restorative place for forest bathing and volunteering, it now has an unexpected fundraising boost – knitting.

Small acts of generosity play an important role in its legacy, and a group of volunteers have been knitting beanies. They're hats with meaning – each represents New Zealand Aotearoa's native birds, many of which occupy the sanctuary.



Tarapuruhi Bushy Park volunteers modelling some of the beanies.

RCP caught up with Bronwyn Crow, volunteer treasurer, and one of the maintainers of Hihi nesting and feeding stations, and Fiona McGowan, who volunteers at the sanctuary, raising between 2500 and 3000 native seedlings annually for planting. The pair are knitters extraordinaire, and several volunteers get the needles out to create Bushy Park Beanies.

The idea came from the "Birds on Beanies" worn by the volunteers at the Tiritiri Matangi 2025 Sanctuaries of NZ Conference held at Tarapuruhi Bushy Park.

The Tarapuruhi Bushy Park team were so impressed by the beanies, they reached out to Kay Wilton, who developed the pattern books "Birds on Beanies", to ask if they could use the patterns to raise funds for their sanctuary.

The answer was yes.

Bronwyn says, "We have made a slow start, selling beanies to mainly volunteers at Tarapuruhi Bushy Park and friends. Now they will be available at the Sandra Morris Illustration stall on Saturday mornings at the Whanganui River Markets. They make a great Christmas gift."

Much of the wool has been donated. Amanda at the Wool Shop in Guyton Street, Whanganui, has been generous with wool and accessories. Each beanie is sold for $55.

"We would welcome experienced knitters who have some spare time and can knit Fair Isle on circular needles to join us. The book illustrations are easy to follow," says Fiona.

"Each beanie sold creates or reinforces a connection between the wearer and the species they choose, which helps us look after our precious forest and its inhabitants of Tarapuruhi Bushy Park," says Bronwyn.

For any enquiries, you can call Bronwyn Crow on 021 245 7335.

A carved connection to Whanganui's arts and crafts history



Sue Garside with Bella Smart's carved wooden bench. Photo credit: Karen Hughes/Whanganui Regional Museum

By Karen Hughes

A carved wooden bench made by a Whanganui woman more than 120 years ago is the focus of the next Object of the Month talk at Whanganui Regional Museum.

The carved bench was made in 1903 by Isabella Smart, known as Bella, who learnt woodcarving at Wanganui Technical School. Its distinctive decoration, together with Bella's initials and the date carved into its lid, provides valuable clues to the maker and origins of an early 20th-century piece of furniture at a time when few women signed their work.

The bench – sometimes called a settle – is also evidence of the influence of the international Arts and Crafts movement in Whanganui, where a growing interest in traditional handcrafts and good design flourished from the 1890s through to the 1920s.

Kaihāpai Taonga/Museum Curator, Sue Garside, will discuss the settle and the story behind it this Friday, 20 November at 12.15pm, for the November edition of the popular public talk series. She will look at the Arts and Crafts movement, its influence on design education in Whanganui, and the women who took up woodcarving and other creative pursuits at the Technical School.

"I love that the settle is evidence that an international design reform movement as powerful as the Arts and Crafts movement was flourishing in Whanganui in 1903," says Sue.

The Arts and Crafts movement began in England in the 1860s, partly in response to the social and cultural changes brought about by the Industrial Revolution. Wanganui Technical School, established in 1892, became an important part of this movement along with the Wanganui Arts and Crafts Society, which began in 1901.

The school's art and design classes attracted many women, with woodcarving proving particularly popular in New Zealand in the early 1900s.

Sue Garside said it is rare to find such obvious clues to the provenance of furniture made in the early 1900s, especially as few women wood carvers signed their work, "Bella Smart, herself, is fascinating.

"She was a married women with three children when she learnt wood carving at the Technical School."

One of Bella's children, Maxwell Smart, went on to become director of Wanganui Public Museum (now Whanganui Regional Museum) from 1950 to 1960.

The bench is one of two pieces of Arts and Crafts furniture made by Bella that have recently been gifted to the Museum by her great-grandsons, Phil and Greg Fahey, in memory of their mother, Isobel Fahey. The second piece is a carved chiffonier, or sideboard.

Taonga o te Marama/Object of the Month is held on the third Friday of every month and offers visitors a fresh way to connect with the Museum's collections through a free 15-minute lunchtime talk.

Attendance is free and open to everyone, with no booking required. Koha to support the Museum's ongoing heritage preservation work is warmly welcomed.

Bridge Club results

Whanganui Bridge Club results week ending 13 November

Monday Open Night: N/S 1. R Rawson K Coombe 66.24 2. S Brotherston H Jarrett 60.42 3. E Topfer A Tims 57.92 **E/W** 1. M Dawson J Zhang 56.25 2. I Kelly K Moore 55.83 3. B Bull W Pedley 54.58

Tuesday Open Night: 1. P MacLachlan Perry Loader 61.81 2. V Baillie S Kuehne 56.94 3. Diana Harrison A Rhodes 54.86 4. I Newbold C Raisin 51.39

Wednesday Miro Pairs: N/S 1. J Delaney R Terrey 73.28 2. C Matthews A Rhodes 55.03 3. T Gunasekara K Smith 45.05 **E/W** 1. B Eriksen S Rainey 56.05 2. J Coxon R Smith 51.95 3. F Simpson B Rhodes 51.09 **Overall Winners Wednesday Miro Pairs:** Betty Eriksen & Steve Rainey

Friday Social: N/S 1=. C Birdling-Duncan G Handley 60.38 1=. S & W Pedley 60.38 3. J Scott J Holt 55.96 4. O Mackintosh S Fonseka 55.19 5. N Bartrum A Hancock 53.65 6. D Haynes J Rapson 52.69 **E/W** 1. V Baillie C Chesswas 61.54 2. M Dawson J Zhang 60.00 3. J Newman J Wagstaff 59.23 4. S Cvitanovich J Jones 56.35 5. B Mackintosh B Perkins 55.38 6. C van Mesdag-McGregor N Gale 50.38

Have Your Arms Suddenly Become Too Short?



By Dispensing Optician Michelle Burnett

When we're younger, we're taught how our bodies grow and change as we age. But one thing we're rarely prepared for is what happens to our vision when we reach our forties!

The phone becomes a tad fuzzier, menus need to be held further away, and lighting needs to be much brighter to read comfortably. Welcome to presbyopia! This is a natural change in near vision that happens to almost everyone, usually beginning in our early to mid-forties.

Inside each eye is a flexible crystalline lens that changes shape to focus at different distances. As we age, this lens becomes less flexible (much like our knees!), making close-up tasks harder to focus on.

These changes continue through our 40s and 50s, generally stabilising around 60–65 as the lens loses most of its ability to change shape. During this time, it's common to need an updated prescription every couple of years. This is why investing in a good-quality optical frame can be worthwhile. A durable frame can often be reglazed with new prescription lenses, saving you from replacing the whole pair each time your prescription changes.

Unlike your knees, there's an easy solution for your vision! There are plenty of lens options available to help you navigate this new stage of life and enjoy clear, comfortable vision again.

- Reading glasses
- Occupational lenses
- Progressive lenses
- Multifocal contact lenses

During your eye examination, our optometrists can help you find the best option for your vision and lifestyle, getting you back to seeing clearly and comfortably.
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Young Bridge players win the NZ Novice Pairs tournament



Calexico and Baxter

Two Whanganui brothers who are home-schooled, 8-year-old Baxter Atkinson and 16-year-old Calexico Fisher, competed in the 2026 NZ Bridge Congress recently held in Palmerston North from 7 to 14 November and had a very successful competition.

Baxter was the youngest of over 900 strong competitors, but that didn't stop him and his brother winning the NZ Novice Pairs at Saturday's competition, with a massive score of 73.12, against a number of older people.

To be clear, the Novice category isn't based on age, but number of years playing, and in Baxter's case, he has only been playing Bridge for less than two years.

Mereana Cullen, the NZB Youth Co-ordinator says, "It's quite important to put the 73.12 because that's a phenomenal score. Not very many people get over 70."

Big brother Calexico introduced Baxter to the game, and it was the highlight of the two days that Baxter competed to play with his older brother and mentor, who was billeted out for the week to attend the event every day.

Baxter and Calexico's mother, Cat Atkinson, says that Bridge games have had many benefits beyond sharpening the mind.

"All the adults are very accepting and encouraging, and the kids are getting great skills interacting with adults."

The Whanganui Bridge Club, according to Cat, has "around 200 members – they've been really generous with their time and patience with the kids."

Mereana Cullen says, "We're doing a surge in the youth (section). And I've actually got this Bridges Schools project, that is, we're trying to get Bridge into schools as one of the electives."

Being homeschooled, Baxter and Calexico have no problem making the time to play a strategic game that means so much to them.

In the word of actor Omar Sharif, "Your mind can rust you know, but Bridge prevents the rust from forming."

Results

7 & 8 November New Zealand Junior Team

2nd Calexico playing with Toby Sutherland

9 November NZ Junior Swiss Pairs

4th Calexico with Toby Sutherland

11 November Congress Junior Team

3rd Calexico with Toby Sutherland

12 & 13 November NZ Junior Pairs

2nd Playing with Toby Sutherland

14 November NZ Novice Pairs

Calexico and Baxter 73.12 – a phenomenal score

Bird photographer produces another book focusing on the sacred Kingfisher

Paul Gibson is a well-known Whanganui-based bird photographer, author, and publisher of seven books on his feathered subjects, including the recently published *Beautiful in Blue: The Sacred Kingfisher/Kōtare in New Zealand*.

Paul typically focuses his bird books on those that inhabit the Whanganui region, including the sacred kingfisher with its distinctive upperpart colouring of blue-green to turquoise is a much-loved and recognisable bird to many.

The photos in the book, says Paul, are mostly taken "on the Whanganui River estuary; it's a migratory bird – in the summer, when it's nesting, it's more in the high country, farming country, and in the winter, it comes to the estuary, feeding on crabs."

Despite the sacred kingfisher's showy appearance, Paul says it's a timid bird. It's also the reason he pushed the green light to devote his time to bird photography books about 20 years ago.

Paul explains his mission, "When I decided I wanted to photograph all the birds in New Zealand, my test was, if I can't get a good picture of a kingfisher, I don't think I'll go ahead with it.

"I struggled for a while to get any pictures of them, then I learned their habits and found that if I went to a place where they frequented and just hid myself, they would then come back after about 15 minutes."

Paul proved to himself, with patience and understanding, that the sacred kingfisher could be in easy reach of his lens, and his first bird book, *New Zealand Birds: A Diverse Selection*, was born in 2007, becoming a bestseller in 2008.

Now Paul has captured the bird from the Whanganui River Estuary to farmland thousands of times. He has produced yet another stunning book, packed with pictures and easily digestible facts on the sacred kingfisher.

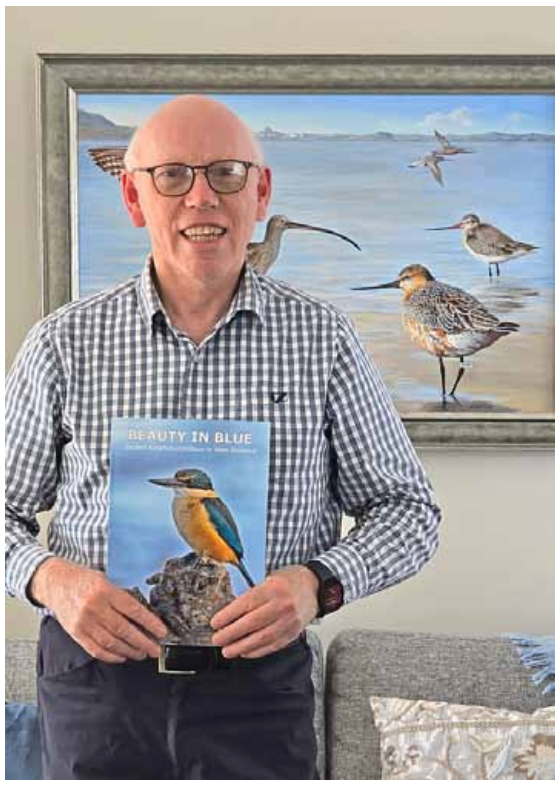
"It's a bird I've always admired; I was brought up on a farm in Taranaki, and we used to have kingfisher there."

Paul also describes them as fearless. They'll dive at anything, he says.

"If you get too close to their nest, they'll even dive at you and go past your head about two inches away. It's a warning shot."

For Paul, the art of photography goes hand in hand with learning a bird's habits and personality, and the book reflects his knowledge and understanding.

Beautiful in Blue: The Sacred Kingfisher/Kōtare in New Zealand was released on November 10 and is available at on Gibson's photography website Unique Pictorials, Paige's Book Gallery and bookshops across New Zealand.



Paul Gibson with a copy of his latest book.

Thank you Whanganui electorate

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Thank you for all your support. I look forward to continuing representing our community.



Carl Bates MP for Whanganui
Incl. Ruapehu, South Taranaki and Stratford

Authorised by C Bates, carl.bates@national.org.nz

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Art exhibition to help raise funds for Helping Hands food project

Well-known award-winning artist Pauline Allomes has a long habit of supporting community groups. For the past three years she has helped Castlecliff Coast Care, raising funds through artwork auctions. Now she is lending her talent to Helping Hands, a community food project that operates from the Whanganui City Mission kitchen.

Pauline is holding an exhibition at her Barrack Street home and studio, alongside mystery artist Via Maris from 21 to 29 November. Silent auction bids will be gathered throughout the exhibition. Visitors can view the artwork up for auction (*The Beauty of a Cabbage Tree*, acrylic paint on canvas, Gordon Park Whanganui), and place bids in the auction box; the highest bid at the end of the exhibition wins.

Helping Hands is a group that meets on the second Saturday of each month. Led by Gina Guigou and her sidekick Theresa Falk, both experienced chefs, the team turns excess produce and donated items that cannot go straight to City Mission Foodbank, into ready-to-use food. They make a variety of items, including stewed apples, plum jam, pasta sauces, lasagne, winter soups and packaged dry mixes for cakes and banana bread – especially useful when large quantities of very ripe bananas arrive.

Gina, who was a cooking tutor at Whanganui UCOL for 30 years, recalls one grandmother's response to the dry mixes: "Thank you. I've always wanted to be able to cook and bake with my mokopuna, but I've never had all the ingredients." Simple packages make those everyday skills possible.

Helping Hands volunteers do not need to be expert cooks – just willing to help and learn.

The kitchen always needs equipment and funding. Gina is particularly keen to find a sponsor for large commercial pots; she currently borrows 40-litre pots from Essence Catering and receives support from St John's Club.

Cash donations from people such as Prue Anderson and Dublin Automotive and others have also been gratefully received, allowing the team to buy the extra ingredients the Mission cannot supply.

The project reduces food waste and adds homemade goodness to the groceries of City Mission clients. Anyone interested in joining on the second Saturday of the month, or in donating items or funds, is welcome to contact Gina: helpinghands4500@gmail.com

Get along to *An Exhibition* to view the donated artwork and put in your bid.

An Exhibition:
Saturday 21 November – Sunday 29 November, 10am to 4pm
4 Barrack Street, Whanganui



Pauline Allomes and Gina Guigou with the artwork up for auction, *The Beauty of a Cabbage Tree*.

ASK A PROFESSIONAL

Antibiotics Awareness Week

This week is world antibiotics awareness week, the perfect time to think about using antibiotics appropriately.

Antibiotics are an incredibly important tool for keeping our animals healthy, but alongside human medicines, the antibiotics we have are rapidly becoming less effective as "superbugs" learn to outsmart them.

The biggest culprits in creating these superbugs include giving antibiotics which aren't needed, giving inappropriate antibiotics for the bacteria involved,
giving too low a dose or too short a course of antibiotics, and giving long-acting antibiotics which slowly lose strength as they wear off. In these scenarios, the antibiotic isn't able to kill all of the bacteria present, so when the surviving bacteria reproduce, they effectively breed bug populations which know how to outsmart the antibiotic that was used, rendering that antibiotic useless.

To prevent this, it's vital that you never give antibiotics without an appropriate diagnosis and that you always give antibiotics as directed, for a full course. This way, you can help us to preserve these essential medicines.

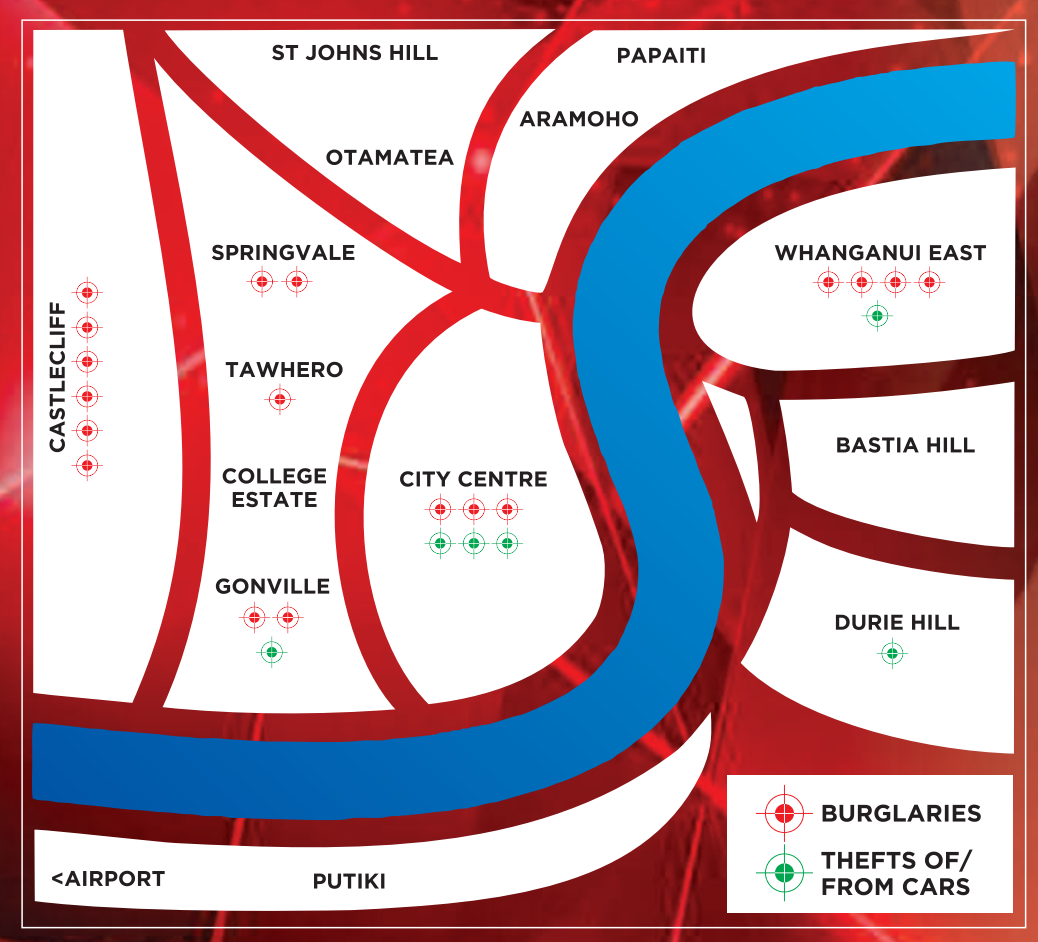
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Get your tickets for Porridge Watson's seventh birthday bash happening this Saturday

The individual behind the name Porridge Watson, a key local live-music venue and culture magnet, may remain a closely guarded secret – it's birthday is not. Porridge Watson's Seventh Birthday Party headlines New Zealand drum-and-bass act The Upbeats, and you'd be crazy to miss it. This Saturday, 21 November.

Proprietor Tony Sundman says the birthday bash "will be a dress-up party – I've bought about 100 green cloaks." Get in early to secure your cape.

Porridge is the most appropriate place to celebrate with a birthday bash – a venue with personality. A bit of a cultural hub in human form – relaxed, a little unpredictable and reliably the place where something decent is about to happen.

It started as a pub open two days a week – now the venue hosts local and national bands and DJs, comedy nights, Improv Jazz sessions, quiz nights and a monthly open-mic poetry night, Word Soup.

That's largely down to Tony, who, without a doubt, is a larger-than-life character with an encyclopaedic knowledge of local and NZ music, and a heart that loves a party and lifting artists across the spectrum.

Porridge Watson, for all its youth, has hosted weddings and launched comic and musical careers.

"Central Region ROAR Comedy Quest winner this year, George Hewitt, started doing comedy here; he went up to Auckland and competed in the finals." George, who also runs the Thursday night Quiz at Porridge, will soon be getting married at the venue.

Back to the party – not only will The Upbeats, who Tony calls "the kings of New Zealand drum and bass", be gracing the stage – Camco starts the party at 6pm, JV B2B Pearly from 7.30pm, with The Upbeats from 10pm.

Go to Eventfinda to grab a ticket to Porridge Watson's Seventh Birthday.

Post-party, what's next for Porridge?

Tony says there's a summer jam-packed with gigs.

All hail Porridge Watson and Tony Sundman – here's to many years of hearty health.



Proprietor Tony Sundman at Porridge Watson, Drews Avenue

Eileen celebrates 30 years working for River City Press



Eileen Ng has just hit 30 years with the *River City Press* as an advertising consultant – that's nearly 1500 weekly papers that she's worked on in the capacity of selling advertising and putting together features to promote businesses, organisations and events.

When asked what has been the highlight of those 30 years, Eileen says, "Being able to help people, businesses new and old, help local small businesses and national corporate ones, and just having the privilege of getting an insight into organisations and areas of the community that I didn't know about.

"I hope that I've helped make a difference with my own personal skills and understanding."

You definitely have made a difference, Eileen! Congratulations!

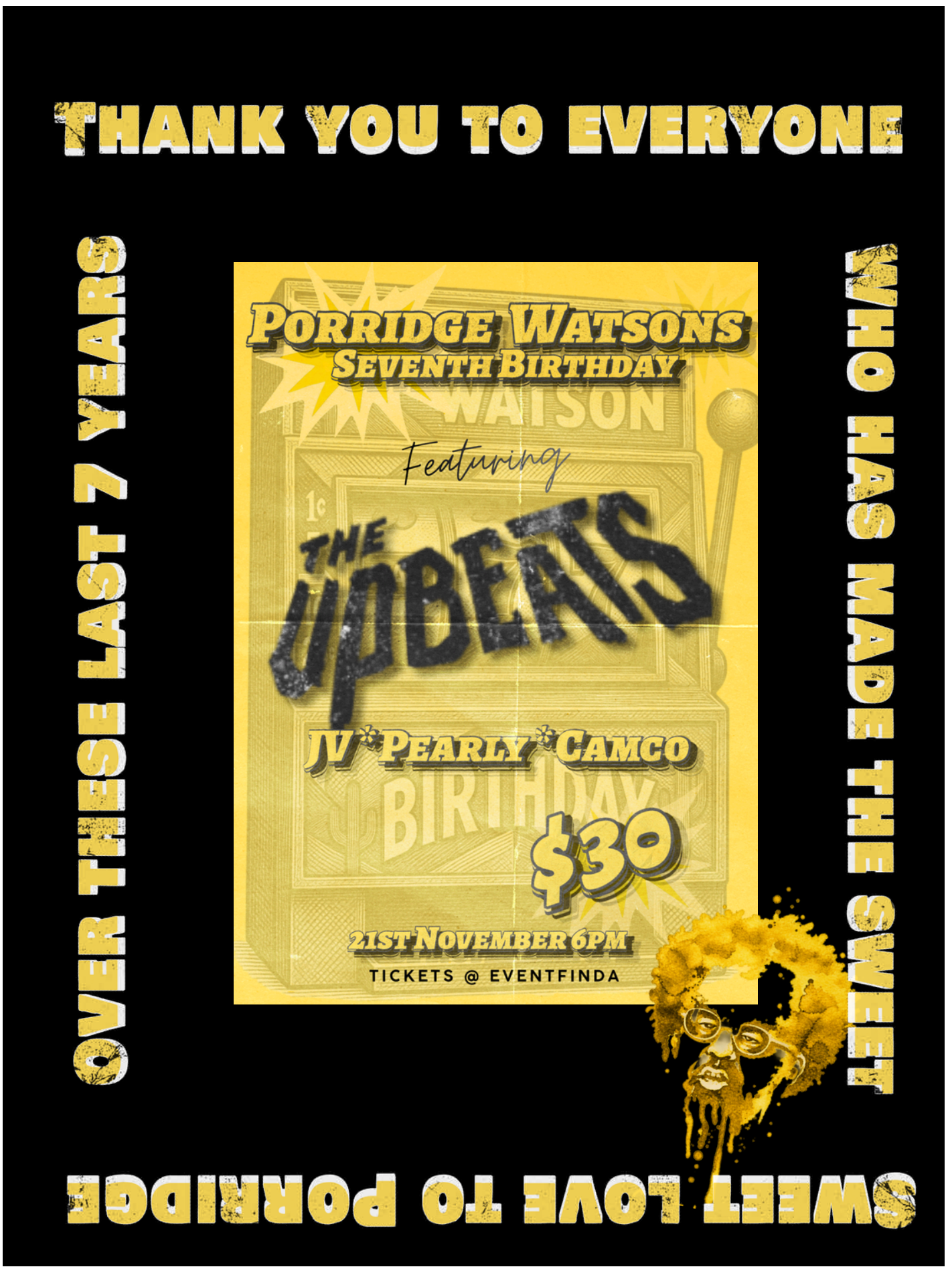


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Home Educators group holding Christmas night market this Friday



Students with some of their goods for sale at the Christmas night market.

After hours of planning, designing and creating, the children of the Whanganui Home Educators group are getting ready to put their hard work to the test at their very first Christmas Night Market!

The children have been busy putting their creativity and talents to work, making a wonderful range of handmade creations and gifts in preparation for the big night. There is plenty of excitement as they look forward to opening their market to the wider community and seeing if their creations will find a place under someone's Christmas tree.

Beyond the fun of selling their own creations, the market is also a fantastic opportunity to introduce children to entrepreneurship. It encourages valuable life skills, including financial literacy, confidence, problem-solving and personal resilience – lessons that will benefit them well beyond the market itself.

The Christmas Night Market will be held at St James Church, Whanganui East, on 20 November, from 5pm to 7pm. It's a great opportunity to get a head start on your Christmas shopping while supporting local home-educated children and their families.

There will be something for everyone, with a fantastic variety of items on offer, including sweet treats, sewn goods, plants, toys, beautifully handcrafted artwork, children's stocking fillers and second-hand treasures. With so much variety, you're sure to find something special! This is also cash only, but bank transfers will be advertised.

Alongside the market, there will also be a sausage sizzle fundraiser, with all proceeds going towards the Whanganui Home Educators group. These funds help provide opportunities for the children to enjoy a range of events and activities throughout the year, from museum, art and nature trips to sporting events. Every little bit helps make these experiences possible.

So come along, enjoy the festive atmosphere, support these talented young creators and their families, and discover some unique Christmas gifts along the way.

Let's get behind our local children, celebrate their creativity and entrepreneurial spirit, and help make this Christmas season extra special!

Singer Tami Neilson to be star act for Vintage Weekend



Tami Neilson

Canadian-born New Zealand country, rockabilly and soul singer, songwriter and composer Tami Neilson will bring her ground-shaking vocals to the Royal Whanganui Opera House on Friday, 22 January. The concert is the opening event for Property Brokers Vintage Weekend 2027.

Tami Neilson is a great fit for the celebrated weekend, bringing retro glamour with substance.

It's a coup pulled off by Bruce Jellyman, Chair of the Vintage Weekend Trust – a huge global act that will share the stage with Whanganui's own Sophie Toyne, a rising star in her own right.

Bruce Jellyman's previous attempt to have Tami as a headline act for the Weekend was scuppered by Covid in 2022. "Now, Tami will be here for the Friday night to open up Vintage Weekend, which is going to be super cool, and of course she's a lot more famous now."

Tami will be performing with her four-piece band – bass, drums, guitar and slide guitar – backing her big voice with country storytelling and rockabilly drive. It's the kind of performance that saw Tami sell out her *Kingmaker* tour, with her albums topping the charts and appearing in multiple categories almost every year at the NZ Music Awards.

Bruce encourages Whanganui to book their seats whether or not you're familiar with the country sound: "She's amazing."

Whanganui's own impressive country music songbird Sophie Toyne has been winning awards from a tender age and is the perfect supporting artist for Tami. The country music genre fits them both like a glove, and it's an opportunity for Sophie to experience firsthand the next level of performing that Tami Nelison brings to the stage.

"We thought that would be just a really good crossover, and so Sophie's doing the first half-hour of that show. So its all, all double-plus stuff," says Bruce.

Still a high school student, Sophie has won several awards, including the Intermediate MLT Gold Guitar Award and the CCMA National Talent Award at the Tamworth, Australia. Sophie also won the Smokefree Rockquest Best Vocals Award nationally.

Get along and book your ticket now for a slice of rockabilly and country music heaven.

For a full schedule of Whanganui Vintage Weekend events, visit whanganuivintageweekend.nz

Tickets can be purchased on Eventfinder or at the Royal Whanganui Opera House.

Would you know what to do if someone is injured?

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Whanganui: Monday 23 Nov or Wednesday 16 Dec

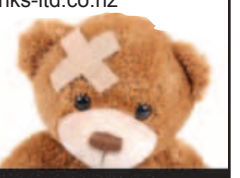
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Having trouble sleeping?

Specialist's free lecture tonight



What can a psychiatrist, sleep specialist, award-winning teacher, bestselling author, and former Buddhist monk teach us about living and working well? Quite a lot, as it turns out.

This year's Porritt Lecturer, Dr Tony Fernando, has followed anything but a conventional path.

Born in the Philippines, Tony trained in medicine before undertaking specialist training in psychiatry and sleep medicine. Now based in Aotearoa New Zealand, he is a psychiatrist, sleep physician, academic, researcher, author, and internationally recognised advocate for wellbeing and compassionate healthcare.

A Senior Lecturer at the University of Auckland, Tony has published extensively in sleep medicine, compassion, and wellbeing, and has received numerous teaching awards from medical students and the Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences. His contributions have been recognised internationally, including an award from President Benigno Aquino III of the Philippines for services to sleep medicine and medical education, and the prestigious New Zealand Medical Association Chair's Award for his work on doctor wellbeing.

Tony is also known for bringing the science behind health and wellbeing to life. As Australasia's only psychiatrist formally trained in insomnia medicine, a researcher in compassion, a regular media commentator, and the author of *Life Hacks from the Buddha*, he combines academic rigour with deep insights drawn from a remarkably diverse life experience, including periods living as an ordained Buddhist monk.

Whether speaking about sleep, resilience, compassion, burnout, or what gives life meaning, Tony has a gift for making complex ideas accessible, practical, and memorable. His presentations are renowned for blending science, humour, wisdom and humanity, leaving audiences both informed and inspired.

Join us for what promises to be a fascinating and thought-provoking Porritt Lecture from one of New Zealand's most engaging medical speakers.

Thursday 19 November, 6.45pm, Whanganui Collegiate School Auditorium (Parking on Grey Street please).

UCOL School of Creative Industries student exhibition

UCOL School of Creative Industries opens their end of year exhibition across the Whanganui Community Arts Centre and Edith Gallery this Thursday 19 November at 6pm. UCOL's end of year exhibition celebrates Whanganui's arts and design students from certificate, diploma, degree and post-graduate courses. The group exhibition showcases Whanganui's emerging artists and designers and provides viewers with the opportunity to appreciate the diverse ideas and works on show.

"Art and design is part of the essential infrastructure of our society. It is how people share stories and knowledge, make meaning, and grow understanding of who they are as communities.

"Throughout the year, UCOL ākonga have worked on visual portfolios which reflect their unique perspectives. Through this process they have learned to connect ideas with action using critical analysis and creative problem-solving.

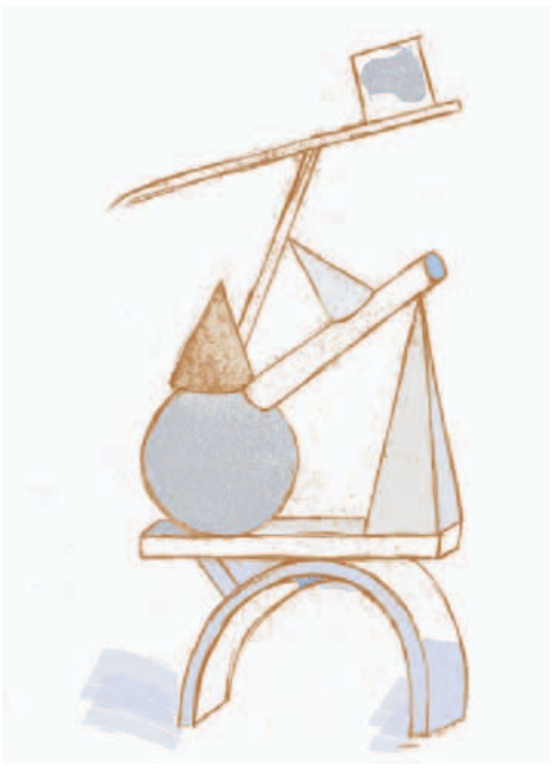
"We look forward to welcoming the wider Whanganui community to this exhibition as we celebrate our students together."

What: 2026 Whanganui Design & Arts Student Exhibition

Where: Edith Gallery and Whanganui Community Arts Centre

When: 20–27 November | 10am-3pm weekdays and 10am-1pm Saturday

Opening event: Thursday 19 November at 6pm, Whanganui Community Arts Centre



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GREYPOWER WANGANUI INC SOC. NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER EDITION

Advocating for our members and our community

President's corner



President Nerrily Frith

President's Corner

As we come to the end of another busy year, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our Grey Power members and friends who attended our Living Well, Ageing Well Expo, held in Whanganui last month.

The Expo was a great success, bringing together 55 wonderful organisations from our health, ageing and disability sectors. It was fantastic to see the interest, connections and support being shared throughout the day. We are already looking forward to planning another Expo in two years' time!

As this is our final newsletter for 2026, I want to sincerely thank you all for your continued support of Grey Power. We work hard to advocate on your behalf and to ensure that the issues that matter most to you are heard and represented.

On behalf of Grey Power Whanganui, I wish you and your families a very Merry Christmas and a happy, safe New Year. I hope you all get the opportunity to enjoy some special quality time with family and friends.

I look forward to catching up with many of you at our upcoming Christmas lunch.

Nerrily Frith
President, Grey Power Whanganui

Christmas lunch - you're invited!



Tuesday, 1 December 2026, 12 noon at the Elms Restaurant, St John's Club, Whanganui.

It's that time of year again, and we would love you to join us for our annual Christmas lunch.

We currently have a booking for 50 people, so it is important that we confirm numbers with the venue.

Please RSVP by Tuesday, 24 November

Please let us know if you are attending as soon as possible to avoid disappointment.

We may be able to accept additional bookings if the club has sufficient space.

Payment: Please pay at the counter when placing your food order on the day.

We look forward to sharing some good food, conversation and Christmas cheer with you!

A final Christmas message

Thank you once again for being part of Grey Power Whanganui. Your membership, support and friendship help us continue the important work we do for older people in our community.

Have a wonderful Christmas, stay safe, look after one another, and we look forward to seeing you all again in 2027.

Merry Christmas from your Grey Power Whanganui Committee!

Monthly Coffee Catch-ups

Second Friday of each month, 2.00pm
Columbus Café, Mitre 10 Mega, Whanganui

Our popular monthly catch-ups will continue right through December and January.

Everyone is welcome. It's a lovely opportunity to catch up with old friends, meet new people and enjoy a relaxed chat.

We would love to see you there!

Grey Power Electricity - important reminder

We are still having some members accidentally paying their electricity accounts into our Grey Power membership bank account.

To help prevent this from happening, could we please ask everyone to double-check that they are using the correct Grey Power bank account details when making their Grey Power Electricity payments.

Your correct bank account details can be found on your Grey Power Electricity invoice.

Thank you for your assistance. It helps us enormously when payments go into the correct accounts.

Resonate Hearing - subscription price update

Grey Power is pleased to have Resonate as our endorsed hearing partner for members who may need hearing aids.

Resonate is a New Zealand company offering high-quality hearing aids, excellent service and an affordable alternative to many traditional suppliers. Its service has also received endorsement from Consumer NZ.

Members can potentially save thousands of dollars compared with other suppliers. One of the benefits of Resonate's subscription service is the flexibility to cancel your monthly subscription and return your hearing aids at any time, subject to the subscription terms.

Important price update – effective 26 October 2026

New subscribers: Resonate Health's Unlimited subscription has increased from $90 to $100 per month

Existing subscribers: If you are already on the Unlimited subscription, your monthly payment will remain at $90 per month.

We hope this clarifies the change for our members.

GREYPOWER WANGANUI INC SOC. BECOME A MEMBER TODAY!

Please complete this form and return it with your payment IF PAYING BY CASH

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Address _____ Contact number _____

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Please tick appropriate box/es above

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Important: Be careful to record your surname and initials in the **CODE box** and your membership number in the **REFERENCE box**.
Your new membership card will confirm receipt of the subscription.

Celebrating 100 years - St Andrew's Catholic Church at Whangaehu

When Teddy (Edward) Green set aside a portion of his farm to build a church, he set in motion a century of Catholic worship, spanning three, four and even five generations of local families.

Numerous fundraising events were held to raise money for the church, including the sale of donated home baking, a goose, sheep, pigs, potatoes, cigarettes, cream, stockings and a "guess the weight of the cake" competition. Several dances were held in the Whangaehu Hall to raise money, and people attended from the region and, of course, financial contributions were gathered.



St Andrew's Catholic Church, Whangaehu.

Construction began in 1925 with Mr G I McLaughlin as architect and Mr D Guy as the builder. The total cost was £707 10s.

The St Andrew's Catholic Church was built on a corner section, fronting what was the Main Road and Beach Road at Whangaehu. The main highway was later realigned during the 1950s, when a new bridge was built.

Through the years, countless prayers have echoed within its walls – prayers of hope and dreams, sorrow and joy. There have been Masses, christenings, first holy communions, weddings and funerals. The little church has been, and continues to be, a cherished and important part of parish lives.

The little wooden church has weathered many storms, enduring a tornado, fierce winds, rain, hail and even the occasional snowfall. Yet it was the floods that posed its greatest challenge, threatening to bring its story to an end. Through determination, resilience and the combined efforts of the community, the church was moved out of the flood zone and lovingly re-established on higher ground beside the Whangaehu Community Hall.

On 1 March 2020, the church was reopened at its new site, and was dedicated by Father Peter Brockhill. Sadly, just 19 days later, on 20 March 2020, its doors closed once more as New Zealand, along with much of the world, went into Covid lockdown. After many anxious days, restrictions were lifted, and the reopening of the church was celebrated with great joy and gratitude.

The church continues to be a gathering point for the community and hub for spirituality. There has been continued support by the parish priests of Marton to this day.

Now, on Sunday 20 December 2026 at 6pm, there will be Mass at the church followed by a potluck dinner at 7pm at the Whangaehu Hall. All are welcome to help us celebrate one hundred years of worship, one hundred years of prayer and one hundred years of community, faith and love.

As they celebrate this special milestone, they remember all those who came before them, those who have kept the faith alive, and those who will carry their precious legacy into the future. They will give thanks for the blessings received, and honour a remarkable century of faith, fellowship and cherished memories.

St Andrew's Catholic Church
Centenary
Sunday 20 December 2026.
6pm Mass : 7pm Social Gathering
Whangaehu Catholic Church Centenary

Ninety participants to compete in campdrafting this weekend

By Mark Dawson

Campdrafting is described as "a unique Australian sport involving a horse and rider working cattle".

However, it is not entirely unique to Aussie, as this all-action rural sport has gained a foothold in Whanganui.

This weekend, 90 participants will be showing off their skills at the Mangamahu Domain in what will be the event's third year as an official campdrafting competition which means two judges coming across the Tasman to run the rule over the Kiwi efforts.

The idea behind the sport is for a horse and rider to cut one cattle out from a group and proceed to guide it in a figure eight movement.

It originated in the Queensland outback among stockmen and drovers, with the first formal competition held in Tenterfield in 1885. Today, Australia's biggest event offers prize money of A$230,000.

The origins of the Whanganui event go back 30 years, with unofficial competitions taking place each year at the Mangamahu Horse Sports show.

However, two years ago Whanganui local Andy Collins took in a campdraft event while holidaying in Australia and invited the judges to Mangamahu, making it a bona fide competition.

This weekend's event has attracted entries from Taupo, Bay of Plenty, Waikato, Gisborne, Taranaki, Wairarapa and other parts of the North Island. The horses are mainly Australian stock horses, and 300 head of cattle will be on hand.

Spectators are welcome to come and enjoy the show. The action runs from 8.30am to 5pm on Saturday, and from 8.30am to 1pm on Sunday.



Thrills and spills at Mangamahu Domain. ***Photo: Alana Hyland***



Online Art & Antique Sale

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Whanganui's Sophie Toyne set to shine at Coca-Cola Christmas in the Park

Whanganui singer and songwriter Sophie Toyne will take the stage at Coca-Cola Christmas in the Park at the Auckland Domain on Saturday 12 December.

The 16-year-old Whanganui High School student successfully auditioned for this year's show, adding to an exciting run of achievements that includes reaching Rockquest's national Top 7 and winning its Best Vocalist award.

Sophie balances school and a part-time job with songwriting and performing. She has won Junior and Intermediate NZ Golden Guitars and recently released her first original single, "Every Little Moment".

After an earlier audition, Creative Director for Coca-Cola Christmas in the Park Dixon Nacey encouraged Sophie to gain more experience and try again. She returned this year with greater confidence, more experience and earned her place in the show.

"Being encouraged to return when I was a little older has only made me more determined," says Sophie. "I'm just a young girl from Whanganui with a huge love for music and an even bigger dream."

This December, Sophie will share the big stage with crowd favourites Ella Monnery, Dillon Rhodes, Nate Peseta, Lavina Williams, Nyree Huyser, Jaya, Elijah Taula and Cleo Fitzgerald, alongside exciting new talent including The Feel Good Service, Tribe of Ope, Henri Woodley, Josh Leys, Flynn Adamson and Wildlanes.

The performers will be joined by the six-member Coca-Cola All Star Vocals, Ngā Puna o Waiōrea Kapa Haka, a ten-piece band, and more than 50 dancers from Freshmans Dance Crew, Studio 246, Auckland Academy of Dance and Red Alert.

Auckland welcomes back popular radio and television personality Simon Barnett who together with More FM co-host Lana Searle will MC the Auckland show. Barnett hosted the very first Coca-Cola Christmas in the Park in 1994 and has since hosted the Christchurch show more than 20 times.

This year's official charity is Kindness Collective, which delivers everyday essentials and Christmas joy through food and toys to families experiencing hardship. Funds raised through the events will help Santa reach more Kiwi families this Christmas.

Coca-Cola Christmas in the Park takes place at the Auckland Domain on Saturday 12 December 2026, starting at 7.30pm. Entry is free.

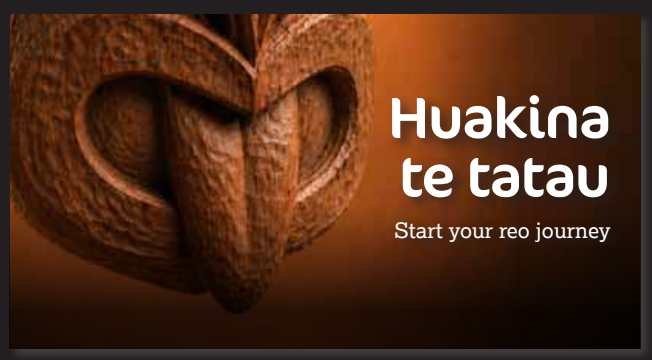
For more information, visit coca-cola.com/nz/en/offerings/christmas-in-the-park.



Singer and songwriter Sophie Toyne.

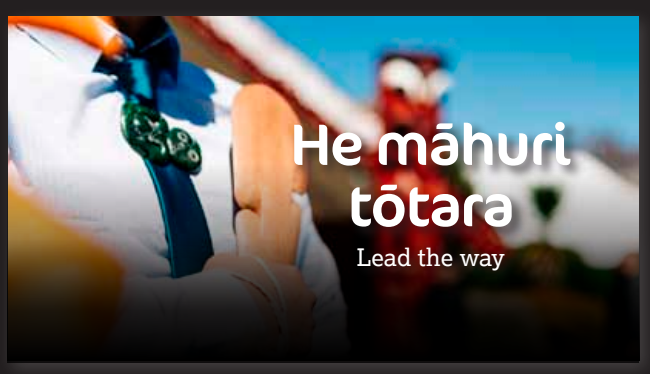
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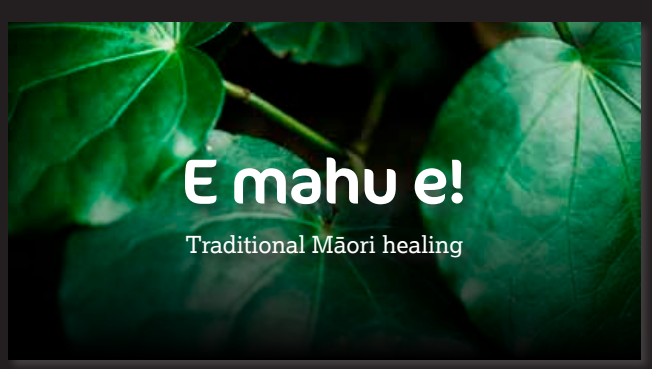
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Housing decisions need informed community input

WHANGANUI RESIDENTS AND RATEPAYERS

More than 70 people attended the Whanganui Residents and Ratepayers Association's public meeting on 5 November to hear Council explain its proposed housing trust and the challenges facing its older persons housing.

Mayor Andrew Tripe, Chief Executive Doug Tate and Councillor Kate Joblin presented, assisted by project director Rosemary Fletcher. Five other councillors attended. WRRA submitted 12 questions beforehand, and over an hour was devoted to questions from the floor.

The financial challenge is substantial. Annual rental income of approximately $2.3 million falls short of operating costs of $2.8 million. Housing debt is forecast to reach $5.71 million by June 2027. Including debt and necessary renewal work, Council estimates approximately $3.8 million annually is needed for a sustainable service.

Options include higher rents, rates support, further borrowing, or different ownership and management arrangements. No decision has been made to transfer the housing portfolio to the proposed trust.

Some attendees questioned whether broader social housing provision belongs with central government. Reviving Council's relocatable "granny flat" approach was also suggested.

With $1.2 million allocated to progressing and establishing the proposed trust, ratepayers reasonably need to understand its advantages over alternatives, including partnerships with existing providers.

An independent trust could attract investment and government support. However, charitable status alone does not secure housing subsidies, and registration as a community housing provider does not guarantee funding.

Clear evidence of local housing demand, iwi's proposed role, tenant protections and ratepayer exposure must inform the business plan.

Further planning and investment decisions are expected during the first half of 2027.

WRRA thanks Council for engaging openly and residents for their constructive participation. We remain open-minded and will continue seeking evidence and meaningful community input into decisions with intergenerational consequences.

Democracy works best when all of us work at it.

Supplied – Warwick Funnell, Chairman of Whanganui Residents & Ratepayers Association (Inc)

Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) handled more than 1000 enquiries



Some of the local Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) volunteers.

The local Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) volunteers have been offering a listening ear and practical direction to people in the Whanganui community facing stressful situations since 1974.

The local CAB is one of a nationwide network, and the service offers a number of ways to connect, including email and online self-service; locally, however, most enquiries are made through walk-ins to the office on Guyton Street and phone calls.

The types of issues the volunteer team can assist with are varied, including legal and government matters, relationships (including family issues), financial and benefits, property, rental housing and neighbour issues, and employment and consumer rights.

The online self-service information can be useful for the situations listed above, but cannot fully replace personal help, especially when people have follow-up questions or are distressed.

A major stress for individuals is not knowing where to start to solve an issue, and the CAB team is a great place to begin. It's not a counselling service; volunteers provide face-to-face support, practical help with online services, referrals and a listening ear.

The Bureau handled more than 1000 inquiries in its last financial year, despite only opening weekdays from 9.30am to 1pm – a sure sign that this is an invaluable service.

Sometimes it's uncomplicated, as chairperson Roger Bannister says, "Helping people fill in forms online, finding those connections. We have laptops that we can work alongside them on."

The bureau has 20 volunteers, most of whom are retired; volunteering offers social connection, teamwork and an opportunity to give back to the community. They're a dedicated team who work as twosomes each shift.

Volunteering for CAB is rewarding, and at the same time you are assisting people through some very stressful situations. The team are there for each other, to talk through and unpack heart-wrenching situations that people are experiencing.

CAB is also well connected to social services throughout the city, including Community House, Jigsaw and other local groups, and shares services and discusses referral pathways.

Roger explains, "We have a monthly meeting of volunteers: a Learning and Development session. All of the volunteers come along, and we use that to build connections across the community." Representatives from different organisations present on the purpose of their work and how the CAB team can make referrals to their services.

Volunteers also use the time to build knowledge of options such as the Tenancy Service, Disputes Tribunal and Family Court Navigator.

CABs also hold a legal clinic, where local Whanganui lawyers volunteer their time on a Monday, 5.30pm to 6.30pm. This is a free, bookings-only service for the community.

The Bureau relies largely on local fundraising and grants like New Zealand Community Trust and the Community Organisations Grant Scheme to keep its doors open.

CAB would like to extend their thanks to Small Talk Whanganui, who hosted this month's fundraising event with CAB as the recipient. The event raised over $1000 for the organisation.

If you would like to volunteer for the CAB or need their assistance, they would love to hear from you: phone 06 345 0844, or email whanganui@cab.org.nz

City Mission benefit from Starfish Project



Some of the Filipino community helping to sort donated goods for City Mission/Zest Op Shop.

The Starfish Project is an annual outreach programme led by Neomili S. Bondoc after a road traffic accident in 2013. Neomili says "It's my way of giving back to God for all the earth angels He sent to help me during that time." She started this project in 2014, inspired by *The Starfish Story* by Loren Eisley.

Neomili recounts the tale, "In the story, a boy was throwing starfish back into the ocean, one by one. When an old man saw him, he asked him why he was still doing it.

There were a lot of starfish; he won't be able to throw them back. The boy didn't respond. Instead, he picked up another starfish and threw it back into the ocean. Then he said, 'I made a difference to that one!'"

The project comes with different themes every year. For 2026, Neomili, together with three other donors, sponsored balikbayan boxes that were filled with donations from the Filipino Community: new and used clothes, shoes, bags, canned goods, noodles, chocolates, toys, and other helpful items.

A balikbayan box literally translates as a "returning home box". They serve as a physical gift of love and care from families working abroad. Instead of sending to their own families, the balikbayan boxes for this year's project were shipped and donated to families living in slum areas in the Philippines.

"This was truly a beautiful manifestation, not only of God's overflowing abundance and goodness, but also of the bayanihan spirit, a core Filipino value that means spirit of communal unity that continues to live on, even in these modern times", says Neomili.

What started as a plan to prepare four sets of balikbayan boxes grew to 10 boxes in total.

They also received extra donations that were shared with Zest Op Shop.

Neomili reminds readers, "You can also be one of these starfish throwers. Visit Zest Op Shop and buy pre-loved items to support the City Mission."

Pigeon Racing results

Whanganui District racing trainers provided the quinella in the New Zealand Cup at Riccarton on Saturday.

Just Charlie, trained by Kevin Myers, won from Trav, prepared by Raymond Connors.

It was Myers' fifth win in the time honoured 3200m race. He won the cup last year with Bozo.

Myers makes a habit of winning races at Riccarton – he completed Canterbury's cup week at the weekend by winning the last on the card with Bundy, who paid more than $18.

Lily Sutherland piloted the pair to comfortable wins.

The genuine galloper Just Charlie was well supported by punters in the cup. Trav, a proven two-miler, paid more than $5 for the place.

Marton trainer Fraser Auret and Waverley owner Joanne Moss also had memorable days on Saturday.

Khanshe won the Group 2 Gartshore Tauranga Stakes for Auret and Doctor Askar ran his best race since crossing the Tasman, finishing second in a listed staying event at Newcastle. Doctor Askar made his reputation as a sprinter with a liking for the Trentham course. On Saturday, however, with Chris Waller preparing him, the galloper was placed over 2300m, responding well to Tommy Berry's riding.

The Wellington Cup now beckons for Just Charlie and Trav.

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Christmas dinner is served at Hudson and Halls dinner and show

The best thing about Christmas dinner in Palmerston North this December? By the time Peter Hudson and David Halls start arguing about the turkey, you'll already have eaten.

Settle in for a Christmas meal and dessert, then take your place in the studio audience for *Hudson & Halls Live!* The cameras are about to roll, the champagne cocktails are on the menu, and somebody ought to check the oven.

Peter Hudson and David Halls cooked their way into New Zealand living rooms in the 1970s and '80s. Peter was Australian, David English, and together they found a loyal Kiwi audience for the sort of domestic squabble most people prefer to keep from the neighbours. You might tune in to learn how to make crêpes and stay to see who got the last word. In 1981, the pair shared the Feltex award for Best Television Entertainer.

They were partners away from the cameras, too. At a time when few gay couples were visible on New Zealand television, viewers got to know these two men through the ordinary business of making a meal together. That history gives the play its heart.

Written by Kip Chapman with Todd Emerson and Sophie Roberts, the play is set in the 1980s, as the boys prepare a Christmas television special. Peter has a turkey to get right, David has champagne cocktails to demonstrate, and someone has decided a praline cream castle would make a sensible finale. Spare a thought for the floor manager, keeping the audience clapping on cue while watching what those two are doing to Christmas dinner.

Directed by Natalie Bethell, the production stars Aaron McLeod as Peter Hudson and Shane Brown as David Halls, alongside Steve Bethell and Amelia Bethell.

The cooking happens live on stage, giving the audience something viewers at home could only imagine. When the lid comes off the pot, the sweet, earthy smell of hot carrots drifts across the room.

Then it's back to the studio, where the pleasure lies in watching two people who know each other inside out attempt the delicate business of correcting one another on air.

Hudson & Halls Live!
4–20 December 2026
Ngaire Ngatuere Auditorium
394 Church Street, Palmerston North.
Evening and matinee performances include a Christmas meal and dessert. Tickets at www.creativestageworks.co.nz/productions.



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Get a Party Pass to attend the exciting entertainment planned for NZ Masters Games



Whanganui has plenty to look forward to this February! Alongside 10 days of sport, the 2027 Downer New Zealand Masters Games brings live music, DJs, themed parties and special events to the Games Village from 5–14 February.

You don't have to enter a sport to join in. Come for a favourite artist, get a team together for the quiz or make a night of it with friends. Locals can access evening entertainment from 6pm with a Party Pass, or enjoy the full programme with a Supporter Pass.

Masters of the Mic auditions are open! We're looking for experienced performers aged 18 and over who can bring a favourite music star to life with a polished tribute act. Think vocals, moves, costume and stage presence. Two audition rounds will determine the final performers, with $1000 up for grabs. Mikey Havoc hosts on Saturday 6 February before taking over the decks. Got a show worth seeing? Audition now!

Big Wednesday brings Tiki Taane and DJ Axis! On Wednesday 10 February, Tiki Taane brings his One Man Band live-looping show to the Games Village, alongside DJ Axis. From Salmonella Dub to Always On My Mind, his music has been part of Aotearoa's soundtrack for years. Catch him live in Whanganui. Big Wednesday Party Passes are $50.

Friday night is going pink! On 12 February, the Games Village turns pink for the Barbie & Ken Dance Party. Retro Barbie, sporty Ken or your own take: dress up, bring your mates and come on Barbie, let's go party.

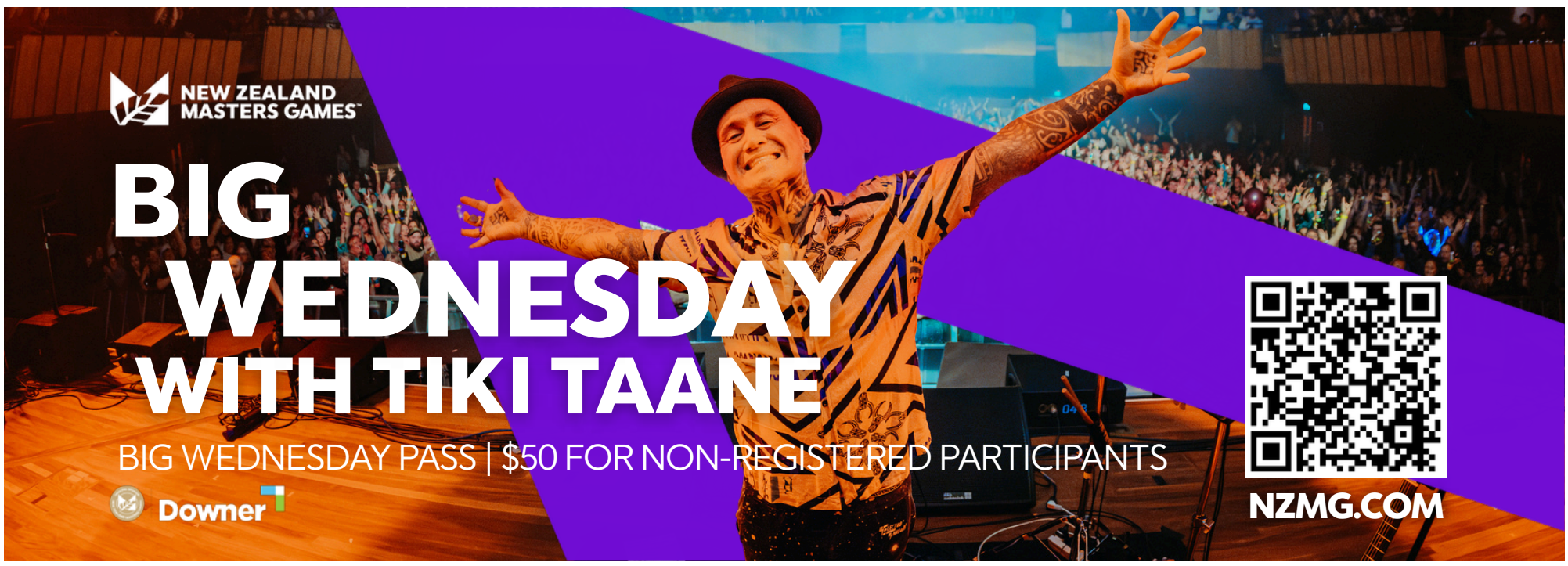
$1000 is up for grabs at the Big Quiz! Comedian Kajun Brooking hosts on Tuesday 9 February. Round up friends, workmates or whānau, choose a team name and put that random knowledge to work.

Local talent takes the stage. Whanganui favourites The Replicants join Rustlers on Saturday 13 February for a big night of live music as the Games head into their final day.

Choose your night or come for all 10 days. Party Passes are $30 for most evenings, or $50 for Big Wednesday. A $60 Supporter Pass covers the full 10-day Games Village entertainment programme. Registered Games participants already have access included.

The Games Village isn't just for people entering sports. It's a chance for Whanganui to enjoy what's happening in the city, support local talent and be part of the Games atmosphere.

Full programme, passes and Masters of the Mic auditions: nzmg.com



It's celebration time for Whanganui 'originals' band Kessel

Almost to the day, Kessel, a Whanganui "originals" band, will take to the stage where it all began 10 years earlier; back then the venue was called The Arena, now it's Porridge Watson, and the band can't wait to put on a free gig on Friday, 20 November.

Jason describes the Kessel sound, saying, "We're like straight-up 90s rock. Our influences are Pearl Jam and bands like The Killers and Kings of Leon. So we're not exactly light background music, but we're not a head-banging heavy metal band, either."

The band of five is Jason Lane (vocals), Tim Archer (lead guitar), Aaron Gash (rhythm guitar), Simon Grant (bass), and Alex Marsh (drums). Except Aaron, who joined the band eight years ago (the Ronnie Woods of Kessel), they have been a tight unit since the band's inception, putting their energy into live gigs, with only four studio recordings in the last 10 years. They've revved up crowds from Auckland to Taupō to New Plymouth, but nothing quite beats a home gig.

"We're in it for the enjoyment, and we like to get people out for a good time. We do it because we love it so much, says Jason.

Joining the band on the night are another originals crew, River City Riff Raff, who'll take to the stage at about 8pm for a 45-minute session, before Kessel hit the stage.

On the night, Kessel plan to make a live recording, a combination of the hankering to get their songs down while playing in front of their hometown audience.

They're grateful to Tony Sundman at Porridge for hosting them, and for providing such a great venue for Whanganui musicians.

"I would say Porridge Watson has got that authentic feel," reflects Jason.

If you haven't experienced Porridge Watson, Kessel or River City Riff Raff, get along to be part of the "authentic feel". If you know what Jason's talking about, you'll be there.

In the meantime, have a listen to Kessel's recorded tracks on Spotify.



Kessel, from L–R: Simon Grant, Alex Marsh, Jason Lane, Tim Archer and Aaron Gash.

Bouquet of the Week

River City Press received a Bouquet of the Week nomination recently for Jessica Firmin, head teacher of Marie McFarland Kindergarten, from friend Charlene Meynell.

"Not only is Jess working full time as a head teacher and a part of He Whānau Manaaki Kindergarten Association board, but she has also co-founded and run Tuhonohono Basketball Club for the last nine years.

"This grassroots club began after she and Vanessa (a parent of the kindergarten at the time) heard about some tamariki who didn't make their school basketball team because their school didn't have enough players to have a team. Not wanting any tamariki to miss out, they created the club, personally coached the initial team, and they continue to coach a growing number of teams each season.

"In addition, Jess is usually found on the sideline of the sports of her three boys, not only cheering them on but also picking other team members up to ensure they too can participate in sports. This is true not only locally, but also when her boys have made regional or national teams and need to attend out-of-town training.



Jessica Firmin with her beautiful bouquet, and friend Charlene Meynell.

"Jess is a humble person who is constantly helping and supporting others despite any challenges she is facing in her own life. It would be amazing for her to receive something to acknowledge all she does with and for our community."

River City Press was happy to oblige, and Nichola and her team from the Flower Room created a beautiful bouquet to deliver.

Charlene was present for the occasion and hugged her tearful friend as the reason for the flowers was described.

Jessica's response: "I'm here supporting in any way we can to get kids involved."

Whanganui district's horse trainers get the quinella

Whanganui District racing trainers provided the quinella in the New Zealand Cup at Riccarton on Saturday.

Just Charlie, trained by Kevin Myers, won from Trav, prepared by Raymond Connors.

It was Myers' fifth win in the time honoured 3200m race. He won the cup last year with Bozo.

Myers makes a habit of winning races at Riccarton – he completed Canterbury's cup week at the weekend by winning the last on the card with Bundy, who paid more than $18.

Lily Sutherland piloted the pair to comfortable wins.

The genuine galloper Just Charlie was well supported by punters in the cup. Trav, a proven two-miler, paid more than $5 for the place.

Marton trainer Fraser Auret and Waverley owner Joanne Moss also had memorable days on Saturday.

Khanshe won the Group 2 Gartshore Tauranga Stakes for Auret and Doctor Askar ran his best race since crossing the Tasman, finishing second in a listed staying event at Newcastle.

Doctor Askar made his reputation as a sprinter with a liking for the Trentham course. On Saturday, however, with Chris Waller preparing him, the galloper was placed over 2300m, responding well to Tommy Berry's riding.

The Wellington Cup now beckons for Just Charlie and Trav.





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Manawatu West Coast A&P Sheep dog trial results

The Black Hawk, Manawatu West Coast A&P Sheep dog trial showring event held on Sunday 8 November in the Manfield Stadium in Feilding, turned out to be a day for the lady dog trialists to shine! They had a clean sweep of all the top prizes.

This event is in its fourth year now and has grown, with 97 entries this year.

Almost half of the dogs were entered by women, with some running three or four dogs.

Last year's winner Merv Williams from Raetihi judged the event.

"The sheep – beautifully bred ewe hoggets from Steve and Cheryl Hirschberg's farm at Apiti – proved very testing for many, but the club was very grateful to them for allowing us to use their sheep. As many of us live a long way from Apiti, it was left to those who lived nearby to work the sheep prior to the show. John Aldworth, Ross Hartley and Kate White did the best they could with the time available.

Ryal Bush Trucking sponsored the carting of the sheep down to Feilding, – very generous, considering the high fuel costs.

Sixteen-year-old Ruby Bailey from Feilding district is making quite a name for herself, with 'Sass'; they won the event and the Intermediate section, followed closely by Donna McLean and 'Flare' from Whangaehu. Donna was coming off a win at Carterton the previous week with 'Sy'.

Phillippa Lambourn from Mangamahu who is the current secretary of the Ohingaiti Tux Trial was 4th with 'Danni' and Teresa Newton from Kimbolton was 6th with her young dog 'Donna'

Well known yarding expert Peter Williams from Hawkes Bay with 'Vonnie' was 3rd in the open and won the open/maiden; Wayne Falkner from Marton with 'Tess' was 5th in the open.

Meg Horrocks with 'Belle' won the maiden/man/dog and young George Shaw from Hawkes Bay with 'Troy' won the novice.

Huge shout-out to our local sponsors: FMF, SRV Services Ltd, Totally Vets Feilding, Farmlands Feilding, Ruapehu Farm Supplies, Darraghs Mitre 10 Feilding, Gallagher, The Shepherd, Dog & Country, Rob Mather and 'Intrigue' Gift Shop, Bulls. Thank you, Jodi, for sponsoring the prize for Top Lady Competitor.



Ruby Bailey who won the event with Sass.

Results

Open: 1st R Bailey & Sass 98pts; 2nd D McLean & Flare 97pts; 3rd P Williams & Vonnie 96; 4th P Lambourn & Danni 95; 5th Wayne Falkner & Tess 94; 6th T Newton & Donna 93.5.

Intermediate Man/dog: 1st R Bailey & Sass 98; 2nd P Lambourn & Danni 95; 3rd T Newton & Donna 93.5; 4th C Pullen & Ike 91.

Maiden man/Maiden dog: 1st M Horrocks & Belle 88; 2nd D Birch & Meg 81.

Novice: George Shaw & Troy. Open/maiden: P Williams & Vonnie 96.

Submitted by Brenda O'Leary (Wanganui Centre Publicity Officer)

Light comedy/documentary which received 100% Rotten Tomatoes score, to screen next week



This movie is a documentary which, while honouring real world struggles, maintains a buoyant, humorous and deeply optimistic spirit. It follows four Zimbabweans who enter a blind wine tasting competition in France after escaping Robert Mugabe's repressive regime.

Arriving in South Africa when fleeing economic collapse in the 2008 hyperinflation crisis, they took entry level restaurant jobs and discovered a passion for wine.

Much of the films gentle humour comes from their quirky French coach, whose unorthodox training methods and communication mishaps provide both tension and laughs. They form Zimbabwe's first ever national team to compete in the prestigious World Wine Tasting Championship in Burgundy.

Blind Ambition won Audience Awards at the Tribeca Film Festival and the Sydney Film Festival where its celebration of resilience, friendship and human dignity was noted. It has a 100% Rotten Tomatoes critic score and is 96 minutes long.

This is U3A's last film for 2027, so please come along and bring some friends to enjoy a relaxing morning before the Christmas rush overtakes us. General public very welcome.

Viewing: Embassy Three

Wednesday 25 November, 10.10 am

Enquiries Julie 0027 883 5352 or Marie 027 356 2733





Te Kahu Pairuri ki Whanganui hospice whanganui

Tree of Remembrance

at Farmers Whanganui

Write a message for a loved one while donating to Hospice Whanganui

The Farmers Trees of Remembrance is an annual nationwide campaign raising funds for local hospices, with the Whanganui Farmers store taking part in support of Hospice Whanganui. It's a much needed boost for a vital service.

The Whanganui community is invited to support the campaign. Hospice Whanganui CEO Helen Leslie explains that it has been running for many years and is a nationwide initiative supporting local hospices.

"It's a nationwide campaign where each Farmers store fundraises for its local hospice. So any donations made at Farmers here come straight to us, which is really wonderful."

Shoppers can donate at Farmers and write a card in memory of a loved one or pet, or to acknowledge something special and place it on the remembrance tree displayed near the store entrance.

Populating the Tree of Remembrance with messages has now become a time-honoured tradition. Helen says, "People come back year after year to remember their loved ones."

In addition, limited edition Christmas baubles, with a fresh design each year, can be purchased in store. All proceeds go to Hospice Whanganui.

The campaign launched on the 12th of November; last year's proceeds were close to $9000.

"I met with the Farmers team on Friday to talk to them about how important the campaign is and how much we appreciate the effort that they're making, because it's quite hard to ask people to make a donation, but they're really committed, and they're really keen to be involved year after year," says Helen.

Brenda Johnston, manager of Farmers Whanganui, says "We are proud to support Hospice and the important role they play in our community. At Farmers Whanganui we value the opportunity to bring our customers, team, and community together to support a cause that makes a meaningful difference to local families."



Helen Leslie, CEO of Hospice Whanganui, with the Whanganui Farmer's store manager Brenda Johnston in front of the Tree of Remembrance. Both are holding this year's unique Christmas bauble, which is part of the fundraising for Hospice Whanganui.

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Sounds of piano and taonga pūoro promise captivating experience

A beautiful one-hour concert, connecting piano with taonga pūoro, aptly titled "Convergence – Te Pūtahitanga" is coming to Whanganui and promises a mesmerising and unique performance that all ages can enjoy. The pianist is our own musical success story, Liam Wooding, now based in Australia and returning especially for this national tour that he insisted include Whanganui! Tickets for the performance at the War Memorial Centre on Friday 20 November are available through www.whanganuivenues.co.nz or the organiser's website www.pactnz.org.nz

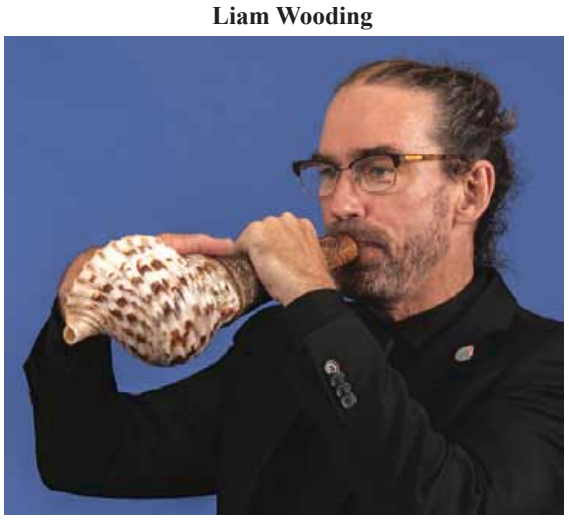
Inspired by the 2024 album *Suite Aotearoa*, that producer Wayne Laird of Atoll Records notes is "one of the first albums to combine concert piano and taonga pūoro", this concert features selected pieces from the album, along with some other piano pieces, two re-imagined with the composer's permission, to include the artistry of taongo pūoro. Leading concert pianist, Liam Wooding, has returned from Australia for this tour. Liam has shaped the programme, with the blessing of well-known pianist Sharon Joy Vogan, who commissioned the *Suite Aotearoa* album and played on the recording. Joining Liam is acclaimed taonga pūoro artist Rob Thorne from Wellington, who is looking forward to honouring the work of album composer Horomona Horo, and also connecting his own artistry to existing piano pieces.

The piano is an incredibly versatile instrument, featuring throughout European history, often the uniting force of family entertainment before electricity provided other options, and still critical as a solo instrument and with many ensembles and orchestras. Also versatile, but offering a different and enchanting experience, taongo pūoro produces natural and uniquely Aotearoa music, evoking ancient sound worlds, yet still fascinating to listen to today.

Audiences can expect a beautiful and captivating one-hour concert for all ages. The organisers are offering school-aged tickets at no charge, with concessions at $25 and general admission at $40 (noting that booking fees may apply). Due to limited seating in many venues, booking is highly recommended, but there will be door sales when there is capacity. Concerts are being held in Invercargill, Dunedin, Christchurch, Marlborough, Wellington, Whanganui, Hamilton, Auckland and Warkworth. Details of each are at Eventfinda or the organiser's website www.pactnz.org.nz/upcoming-projects.



Liam Wooding



Rob Thorne

Motorcycle club produce calendar to raise funds for St John

The Wanganui Classic Motorcycle Club regularly supports local causes, including Hato Hone St John, through fundraising initiatives such as its Whanganui-themed classic motorcycle calendars. This year, the club has released its fourth edition, and it's another high-quality production.

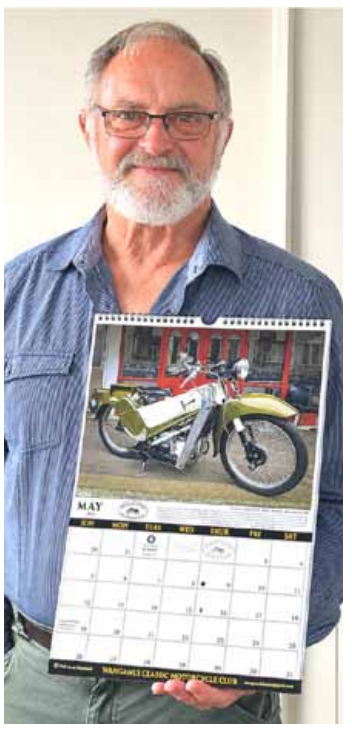
The calendar features a range of the club members' classic bikes, from a 1942 BSA, indestructible old-school British toughness, to the high-revving, tyre-shredding Suzuki TR750; every month has a classic pinup to grace your home or garage.

The background for each Classic bike is unique too: past and present motorcycle shop locations around Whanganui, including two of the iconic Coleman-owned business locations on Guyton Street and Victoria Ave.

President of the Club, Clive Higgie, was responsible for taking all the photos, and fellow club member John Malcolm "did all the hard work tidying them up".

John, who was a photography lecturer in Auckland, moved to Whanganui in 2015. He and his wife love the friendliness of the Whanganui people, and how people here are always ready to offer a helping hand – The Wanganui Classic Motorcycle Club's annual calendar is another example of community spirit in action.

All of the funds raised are going to support the local St John Hato Hone with funds for the Mangar Camel Emergency Lifting Cushion. The equipment is used in any environment, both indoors and out, to lift a person who has fallen in a dignified manner and at the same time protects both the carer and the person being lifted from injury.



Clive Higgie

A total of 250 calendars have been printed and are being sold on the Club's behalf for $25 each through various Whanganui bike shops: Dibbens Swartz Motorcycles, Keown Honda, Paragon Motorcycles, Brown Brothers Bikes, Marshall Motorcycles and B&C Motorcycles.

Paige's Book Gallery and Little Curious Bagels café also have calendars in store.

GIVEAWAY

RCP have a double pass to *Convergence* to give away to a lucky reader. To be in the draw, email your name and phone number to rivercitypress@xtra.co.nz with *Convergence* in subject line or drop your entry into our RCP office at 52 Ingestre Street by midday on 20 November 2026.

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international MEN'S DAY

THURSDAY 19 NOVEMBER

Recognising men's contribution to family, community and the environment

International Men's Day (IMD) is observed every year on 19 November. In 2026, the global theme is "The Future Is Everyone", framing the day as an invitation to recognise men's contributions while supporting everyone's wellbeing.

It focuses on six pillars: promoting positive male role models, celebrating men's contributions to family, community and the environment, highlighting men's health and wellbeing, addressing discrimination against men and making the world safer for all.

Whanganui has an older population and a significant Māori population. These factors shape local needs around men's health, connection, and roles in family and community. Nationally, about three-quarters of suicides are male, with Māori men facing elevated rates; Whanganui has featured among North Island districts with higher rates of premature male mortality.

Mana Man, a Whanganui men's support group, fits the IMD practical pattern: spaces for honest talk, mutual support, and reducing isolation rather than formal ceremonies. The group meets every Wednesday night at 7pm at the Christ Church Community Centre, 235 Wicksteed Street. The door is open to men.

The group is described on the manaman.co.nz website as "a networking brotherhood of men from all walks of life who are on a journey of learning and to rediscover their purpose in life. Through unlocking potential and a belief in themselves, they can transition from dysfunctional behaviours, transforming to become good, caring, responsible men."

Another local expression in Whanganui is the Whanganui Community Men's Shed Trust, recently settled in new premises on Pickwick Road. It offers a workshop space for skills, projects and social connection – explicitly supporting mental, physical and social wellbeing.

Members, mostly older men, with some women, work on personal projects and community contributions such as repairs for not-for-profits, school items, a marae playhouse, a reading nook and more. The Shed's philosophy emphasises companionship and purpose, especially for retired men who might otherwise be isolated – directly embodying IMD's focus on everyday positive role models and health.

Enquiries about the Men's Shed can be made through menshedwhanganui@gmail.com

IMD emphasises checking in on mates, valuing the quiet contributions of fathers, tradespeople, businessmen and volunteers, and supporting men's health across the globe.

Prostate cancer is the most commonly diagnosed cancer in NZ



Prostate cancer is the most commonly diagnosed cancer in New Zealand. Each year, over 4000 Kiwis are diagnosed with prostate cancer, and more than 700 die from the disease. It is the second leading cause of cancer death in men – just behind lung cancer. One in eight men will develop prostate cancer in their lifetime.

A man can have prostate cancer for many years (sometimes up to 20 years) without knowing. Because early prostate cancer grows very slowly and stays inside the prostate gland, it often causes no warning signs or symptoms at all.

However, the following are signs of possible cancer:

- Dull pain in the lower pelvic zone
- Frequent need to pass urine
- Trouble passing urine, pain, burning or weak urine flow
- Blood in the urine (hematuria)
- Painful ejaculation
- Pain in the lower back, hips or upper thighs
- Loss of hunger
- Loss of weight.

You can fully recover from prostate cancer, especially when it is found early, with recovery depending on key factors such as cancer stage, treatment type and overall health.

When managing prostate cancer or trying to prevent its progression, people should avoid saturated fats, high-fat dairy products, and red or processed meats. High-fat dairy such as whole milk, full-fat cheese and butter can promote inflammation and higher risk, while red and processed meats such as beef, bacon, hot dogs and sausage are linked to faster disease progression.

The Prostate Cancer Foundation NZ provides vital support to individuals, families and whānau facing the disease. It promotes awareness, funds research, shares information and advocates for earlier diagnosis, better treatment and higher standards of care.

For more information, go to: prostate.org.nz

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Water quality is only one factor. Horizons does not close swimming sites; results are displayed as green (suitable), amber (caution) or red (unsuitable). Avoid swimming during and for 48 hours after heavy rain, and check that the water looks clear and smells normal. Always review the latest LAWA results before entering the water.

Visit www.lawa.org.nz/explore-data/manawatu-whanganui-region

Boating and fishing around Whanganui

As summer settles over Whanganui, the region's waterways come into their own. Te Awa Tupua – the Whanganui River, New Zealand's longest navigable waterway and the first river granted legal personhood – offers everything from gentle paddles to jet-boat runs through gorges. At the same time, the nearby coast opens for offshore fishing when the weather cooperates.

On the river itself, summer's lower flows are ideal for both boating and angling. The Whanganui Journey, a multi-day canoe or kayak trip through Whanganui National Park, is a classic option, with grade 1–2 rapids suited to beginners after a short briefing. Hire companies supply gear and transport for trips ranging from one day to the full route from Taumarunui to Pipiriki.

Jet-boat operators based near the city and at Pipiriki run shorter scenic trips or longer excursions to the Bridge to Nowhere, combining speed with river history and views of the surrounding bush. The restored paddle steamer Waimarie provides a more relaxed cruise from the city, as does the historic Hatrick vessel, MV Wairua.

For those who prefer fishing to boating, Whanganui offers plenty of options, from sheltered estuary spots to offshore waters.

The Whanganui tidal estuary yields kahawai and flounder. Platforms at Tregenna Street in Castlecliff are ideal. The site has seating, bait boards, picnic tables and 24/7 toilets nearby.

For sea fishing, the Wharf Street ramp at Castlecliff gives access through the river bar. Local knowledge is essential – the entrance is wide and defined but still demands respect in westerly conditions. Once at sea, anglers target snapper, blue cod, tarakihi, gurnard, kahawai and more in waters less pressured by commercial boats.

Nearby Lake Wiritoa offers calmer options for boating, water skiing and fishing.

Always check river levels, bar reports and regulations before heading out. With warm weather, clearer water and long days, summer is the best time to get on the water around Whanganui.



Becoming a member of Coastguard Whanganui is well worth the peace of mind. It's the simplest way to support the local volunteers while covering yourself for help on the water. Sign up at coastguard.nz/membership.

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WORLD CHILDREN'S DAY

November 20

Collegiate students raise funds for children and families in Solomon Island affected by climate-induced hunger



Whanganui Collegiate School students participating in the World Vision 40 Hour Challenge

Sophie Cranstone, a Year 11 student at Whanganui Collegiate School, and about 60 students in her year group completed the World Vision 40 Hour Challenge last Thursday, exceeding expectations in the funds raised so far.

The total raised by the 60 students combined by the end of the challenge on Thursday was $12,000 – and donation opportunities are still open. The students were hoping to raise $10,000.

The group are raising money for children and families in the Solomon Islands who are struggling with the impacts of climate-induced hunger.

Each of the four Collegiate houses' Year 11 students chose different challenges.

Sophie, belonging to Hadfield House, explains, "We undertook our challenges in our four House groups, beginning on Wednesday afternoon and finishing on Thursday morning. Our house challenge was 40 hours of eating only rice and potatoes, staying outside for the entire day, and no electricity."

The crisis the students are raising money for is vital, says Sophie, "Across the Pacific region, one in six children are experiencing severe child food poverty. About 80 percent of the population in the Solomon Islands relies on farming and fishing as their main sources of food and income.

"As one of the countries most affected by climate change and regularly exposed to severe weather events, the Solomon Islands is particularly vulnerable to losing these essential food and income sources."

The money the students raise within the Whanganui community will go towards educating children and families about nutrition, providing agricultural resources to help communities grow crops and produce food, and creating access to alternative sources of income.

"Our mission this week is to complete a 40-hour challenge and, through sponsorship from the wider Whanganui community, we hope to raise over $10,000." They will be undertaking challenges in their four House groups, beginning on Wednesday afternoon and finishing on Thursday morning. While the 40 Hour Challenge is a well-established fundraising event, the way the school brings together an entire year group to participate makes their approach unique.

Sophie's hope for her year group through this challenge is not only to raise funds for this cause, but also to raise awareness of an issue in a part of the world many people may know little about.

The students want to thank everyone who supported them in the 40 Hour Challenge.

At the time RCP went to print the total was $13,408. If you would like to donate, visit: https://fundraise.worldvision.org.nz/fundraisers/whanganuicollegiateschool

Key Facts of World Children's Day

World Children's Day is UNICEF's global day of action for children, by children. It is observed every year on 20 November.

Key facts

- Date: 20 November (in 2026 it falls on Friday).
- Purpose: To promote children's rights, amplify children's voices, and call for action so every child can grow up safe, healthy, educated and protected.
- History: It marks two important UN milestones:
  - 20 November 1959 – adoption of the Declaration of the Rights of the Child
  - 20 November 1989 – adoption of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (the most widely ratified human rights treaty in history).

The 2026 theme is "My day. My rights. My future." The campaign encourages listening to children and letting them speak about the future they want.

Pack the bus

Closer to home, supporting children and families over the past week is Whanganui's Breeze and Property Brokers Pack the Bus initiative – 16–20 November. They're collecting new, unwrapped toys and non-perishable food for local charities including the Whanganui City Mission and Woven Whānau.

Contact Property Brokers Whanganui to donate.



Proud to support World Children's Day

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Spectators welcome at Wanganui Car Club's Dual Speed Weekend

The Wanganui Car Club is pleased to announce it has secured a new sponsor for its 2026 Dual Speed Weekend, to be held on Western Line and Brunswick Road. Auto Brake and Clutch Manawatu has generously offered to sponsor the event, taking place this weekend, 21 and 22 November. The proprietor of Auto Brake and Clutch, Steve Blackley, is a recent and welcome new member of the Club, and the owner and driver of a very fast Mark 1 BDA Escort. Sadly for Steve, the Escort has experienced recent mechanical issues, but he will be driving this weekend in Rob Gunn's Holden Commodore.

The Western Line event starts just past the railway crossing and runs down into the valley, then up the twisty hill, with the finish line on the level section of road at the top. While it is certainly not a high-speed event, with competitors unlikely to exceed 160km/h, the tight nature of the course is challenging. Sunday's Brunswick Road venue is quite the opposite, with the event starting down in the valley before the bridge and moving up through two tight hairpin corners before the road opens up to high-speed sections. Speeds in the open sections are likely to exceed 200km/h.



Unfortunately, last year's winner of both events – well-known local "speed freak" Jayden Carrick – will not be driving his winning Mazda RX7 this year due to technical problems with the car and will instead be relegated to his father's mid-1970s Triumph 2500 PI. This would have left the field open for another local, Damian Johnson, in his quick Mitsubishi VR4, but Damian is under medical instruction not to put stress on his injured shoulder. The Wellington entry most favoured to win is Anthony Taylor-Edwards in his very fast Mitsubishi EVO.

Spectators are welcome, with some excellent viewing locations along both courses. At Western Line, the pit paddock provides excellent viewing of the winding sections of the course. Those wishing to watch the action on Brunswick Road are asked to contact the Club caravan parked in the pit paddock to arrange transport to viewing locations. For safety reasons, spectators are requested to follow the Safety Marshals' instructions at all times. The Club emphasises that there are to be no pedestrians on the course at any time.

While the Club has in recent years restricted itself to running five events on five different roads each year, it is now in the planning stages of a new event at Mount Curl in the Marton area. The new course will be unlike anything the Club has staged before, being almost 9km long and used as part of Targa NZ competition. It is hoped that all arrangements will be finalised shortly, with the aim of holding the event in March 2027.

The Wanganui Car Club would like to take this opportunity to thank all local residents and landowners for their cooperation in allowing the road closures. The Club looks forward to a day of speed and fun.

The road will be open to the public at intervals during the competition and will be under the strict control of event officials.

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Thinking of selling in the New Year?

Rochelle's Property Q&A

What should I be doing now?

We're thinking about selling in the New Year. Is there anything we should be doing before Christmas?

Absolutely – and getting organised now doesn't mean you need to put your home on the market straight away.

If a move is on your mind for the New Year, the weeks before Christmas can be a good opportunity to get some advice, work out what your home may be worth and decide whether there's anything worth doing before you sell.

Start with an appraisal.

Before making a long list of jobs, it helps to understand where your property sits in the current market.

An appraisal gives you an indication of what your home may realistically sell for in the current market.

It also gives us an opportunity to walk through your home together and talk about what I would – and wouldn't – recommend doing before you sell.

Don't assume everything needs fixing.

One of the most common questions I'm asked is, "What should we do to the house before we put it on the market?"

Sometimes there are improvements that could make a worthwhile difference. Other times, a good clean, some garden maintenance, decluttering and a few smaller jobs may be all that's needed.

You don't necessarily need to renovate your home before you sell.

Before spending money, find out which improvements are likely to matter to buyers. Some may not add to your eventual sale price, but could improve the saleability of your property.

Use the holidays to get organised - not overwhelmed.

If you're planning to sell in the New Year, you don't need to spend your Christmas break working through an enormous to-do list.

Instead, having a plan beforehand means you can tackle things at your own pace. That might be sorting through cupboards, tidying the garden, arranging a few repairs or simply starting to think about what you'll take with you when you move.

A little preparation now can make things much easier when you're ready to go to market.

Think about your next move too.

Selling your home is only one part of the picture. Are you buying again, downsizing or moving out of Whanganui? Do you need to sell before you buy?

There isn't one answer that suits everyone. Understanding your options early can help you make decisions based on your own circumstances rather than feeling rushed later.

Sound like a plan? So, what next?

Start by arranging an appraisal or simply asking for some advice.

You might decide you're ready to get started early in the New Year, that you'd prefer to wait a little longer, or even that selling isn't the right move for you just yet.

The important thing is having the information you need to make the decision that's right for you

The Bottom Line.

If you're thinking about selling in the New Year, *you don't need to wait until January to start planning.*

A little preparation now can mean starting the New Year feeling organised, informed and ready to move forward when the time is right.

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> - Linda Lamb (seller)

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REAL ESTATE & RENOVATION NEWS

~ Preparing your property for sale ~

Put the ease in selling your home through a bit of prep work. Here's a list of things you can do to your home to get it ready for sale.

Consider what to do to get the best return.

Think carefully about major renovations – you may not get your money back if you tackle big jobs like modernising the kitchen or bathroom before selling.

Budget carefully if you decide to go ahead. A property valuer or agent may be able to help you decide which actions are likely to increase the value of the property.

Declutter

Removing the clutter will make your home look larger and more appealing.

• Start by removing everything you haven't used or won't need for a while.

• Consider hiring a storage unit so you can remove surplus furniture and other items away from the house, or store items in cartons neatly in the garage.

• Remember to declutter cupboards too – buyers will check storage during open homes. Tidy, organised cupboards imply that the rest of the house is well looked after. This is true of kitchen cupboards and drawers and the pantry too.

• Use decluttering as an opportunity to sell or throw out items you don't want to move to your next home.

• Remove or replace chattels that you don't want to sell before the first open home, for example, a favourite lightshade.

Deep clean

When your home is free of clutter and surplus furniture, it's a good time for a deep clean.

• Clean everything, everywhere.

• Think about hiring a professional cleaning team to do this for you if you're short of time.

• Consider having the carpets professionally cleaned – this can make a big difference.

• When the deep clean has been done, it will be easier to clean before each open home or showing.

De-personalise

Start thinking about the house objectively as a property for sale. This will help you remove yourself emotionally from your home and will help you see it as buyers do. Talk to your agent about who is likely to be interested in your property, and think about what will appeal to them.

• Remove personal photos and items.

• Consider having your home professionally staged, especially if your furniture is tired.

• Think about painting over bold colours and dated wallpaper.

• Attend open homes in your area and take note of what works well and what doesn't.

Street appeal

The house exterior and garden should be tidy and inviting – first impressions are important.

• Keep lawns mowed, paths swept and free of moss and gardens weeded. Mulching the garden can be an instant improvement and will help manage weeds while your home is on the market.

• Check that fences are in good condition and declutter the section.

• Wash the house and any other buildings, including all windows.

• Check that the front gate is clean, tidy and working well.

• The letterbox should be clean and in good condition with clear numbering.

• Have a look at your front door and consider a fresh coat of paint and a new doormat. Depending on the time of year, you may want to add a pot plant for colour.

Touch-ups and repairs

Most of us have a list of jobs around the home that haven't been finished. Now is the time.

• Fix any issues like leaks, damaged retaining walls and broken drains.

• Make sure you have consent and compliance documentation for any changes you've made to the property.

• Attend to things like dripping taps, cracked windows, holes in walls, tired paint, sticking doors and lightbulbs that need replacing.

• Your agent will help you prioritise the tasks to tackle if you're short of time and budget.

- Taken from www.settled.govt.nz



Outdoor areas no longer just a patch of grass

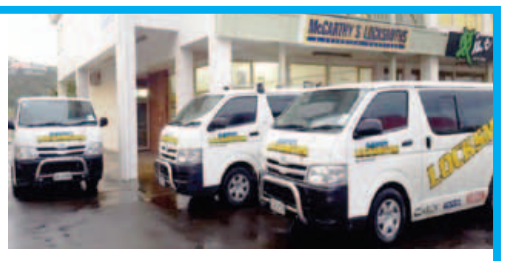


Firepit nights, neighbor hangouts, barbecues and more…the backyard is no longer just a patch of grass; it's a space to utilise on a daily basis! Now that outdoor heaters exist, they can be a great hangout spot year-round.

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

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White Ribbon Day

Wednesday 25 November | Walk & Vigil - Starts 8.30am at Women's Network, St Hill Street

Men encouraged to become a HeForShe champion to help stop violence against women and girls

By Carla Donson MNZM, Whanganui Women's Network

"Remembering White Ribbon Day"

White Ribbon Day is commemorated worldwide on 25 November. It originated in Canada, where the first White Ribbon Campaign was launched in 1991 by a group of men following the 1989 Ecole Polytechnique massacre in Montreal, Canada, in which 14 women were targeted and killed by a male shooter. The campaign was created to encourage men to take responsibility for helping end violence against women and to challenge attitudes that enable abuse. In 1999, the United Nations officially recognised 25 November as the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, strengthening the global significance of the movement. White Ribbon Day was introduced to New Zealand in 2004 by what was then UNIFEM [the United Nations Development Fund for Women] and has since grown into a nationwide campaign. The Women's Network in partnership with the YWCA were proud to hold the first White Ribbon Day event in Whanganui that same year, with a walk and vigil held at the 'Handspan' sculpture in Pukenamu Queen's Park.

White Ribbon Day reminds us that gender-based violence must remain in focus. Research from a wide range of universities, the Ministry for Women, and the National Council of Women, demonstrates that violence against women and girls [VAWG] is widespread. It is estimated that approximately 55% of women have experienced one or more forms of abuse from an intimate partner, including physical, sexual, psychological, controlling, or economic abuse. Women are also 2.4 times more likely than men to experience intimate partner violence, and New Zealand continues to rank highly among OECD countries for the proportion of women who have experienced intimate partner violence during their lifetime. Wāhine Māori are disproportionately affected, with rates of intimate partner violence significantly higher than the national average, and we need to understand more about the prevalence among our rainbow communities given the high number of non-binary and transgender people who experience violence.

As a community, we can raise our awareness by engaging with the *16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence* which is a global campaign led by the United Nations. It begins on White Ribbon Day/International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, and runs through to 10 December, Human Rights Day. Coordinated globally through the UN's *UNiTE to End Violence Against Women* initiative, the campaign highlights the need for prevention, survivor support, accountability, and gender equality. Male leaders – across politics, business and sectors of influence – are invited to become *HeForShe* champions – a United Nations global solidarity movement for gender equality. "The men of HeForShe aren't on the sidelines. They're working with women and with each other to build businesses, raise families, and give back to their communities" www.heforshe.org/en

Follow our local response by engaging with the Whanganui Violence Intervention Network campaign on Facebook, beginning on White Ribbon Day: www.facebook.com/VINWhanganui



NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg has joined other world leaders in signing up as a HeForShe Champion.

Public walk and vigil next week

In commemoration of White Ribbon Day, at 8.30am on Wednesday 25 November, folk are invited to gather at the Women's Network for a gentle walk from the Ladies' Rest Building up to the Handspan sculpture in Pukenamu Queen's Park where we will gather for a vigil in solidarity with women and girls who have been impacted by violence.

This marks the commencement of a Whanganui campaign that supports the United Nations 16 Days of Activism to unite to end violence against women and girls which begins on White Ribbon Day and ends on 10 December, International Human Rights Day.

All are welcome to join the walk and vigil.



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Join Steam Incorporated on these special excursion trains between Whanganui's Taupo Quay & Kai Iwi. Behind a combination of steam & diesel motive power, explore the famed stretch of track north of Whanganui! A ferocious 1 in 35 climb to the top of the hill! Hauled by both steam & diesel motive power!

GA Fare - $49 | Family of 4 Fare - $169

TRAIN DEPARTS TAUPO QUAY:
SATURDAY 23 JAN - 8:50AM & 1:35PM TAUPO QUAY TO KAI IWI RETURN

THE RUATANGATA WANDERER

Climb onboard our heritage train, and travel between between Whanganui's Eastown & the small settlement of Ruatangata. Behind a combination of steam & diesel motive power, explore the unique stretch of track south of Whanganui! Head through the famous Fordell Tunnel and experience the thrill of our open air viewing carriage!

GA Fare - $49 | Family of 4 Fare - $169



TRAIN DEPARTS TAUPO QUAY:
SATURDAY 23 JAN - 11:15AM & 3:55PM TAUPO QUAY TO RUATANGATA RETURN

THE FEILDING FLYER

A rare steam train experience between Whanganui's Taupo Quay & Feilding. Hauled by Ja 1271, and comprising our heritage steel passenger cars including our open viewing platform. Feilding, a kiwi town located in the Manawatu-Whanganui region of New Zealand, is known for its vibrant culture and beautifully preserved heritage! Spend nearly 2 hours exploring the town's charming sites before hopping back on the steam train to head back to Whanganui for the rest of your weekend!

Adult Fare - $99 | Child Fare (2 - 12) - $69



TRAIN DEPARTS TAUPO QUAY:
SUNDAY 24 JAN - 8:35AM TAUPO QUAY TO FEILDING RETURN

THE TARANAKI EXPLORER - NEW!



A special heritage train journey from Whanganui to New Plymouth! Hauled by a classic diesel locomotive, enjoy the changing landscapes of South Taranaki before arriving right in the heart of New Plymouth at Puke Ariki. You'll have around two hours to explore the city, grab a bite to eat, or stretch your legs along the famous Coastal Walkway with its spectacular views across the Tasman Sea, before rejoining the train for the journey back to Whanganui.

Adult Fare - $149 | Child Fare (2 - 12) - $99

TRAIN DEPARTS TAUPO QUAY:
MONDAY 25 JAN - 7:20AM TAUPO QUAY TO NEW PLYMOUTH RETURN



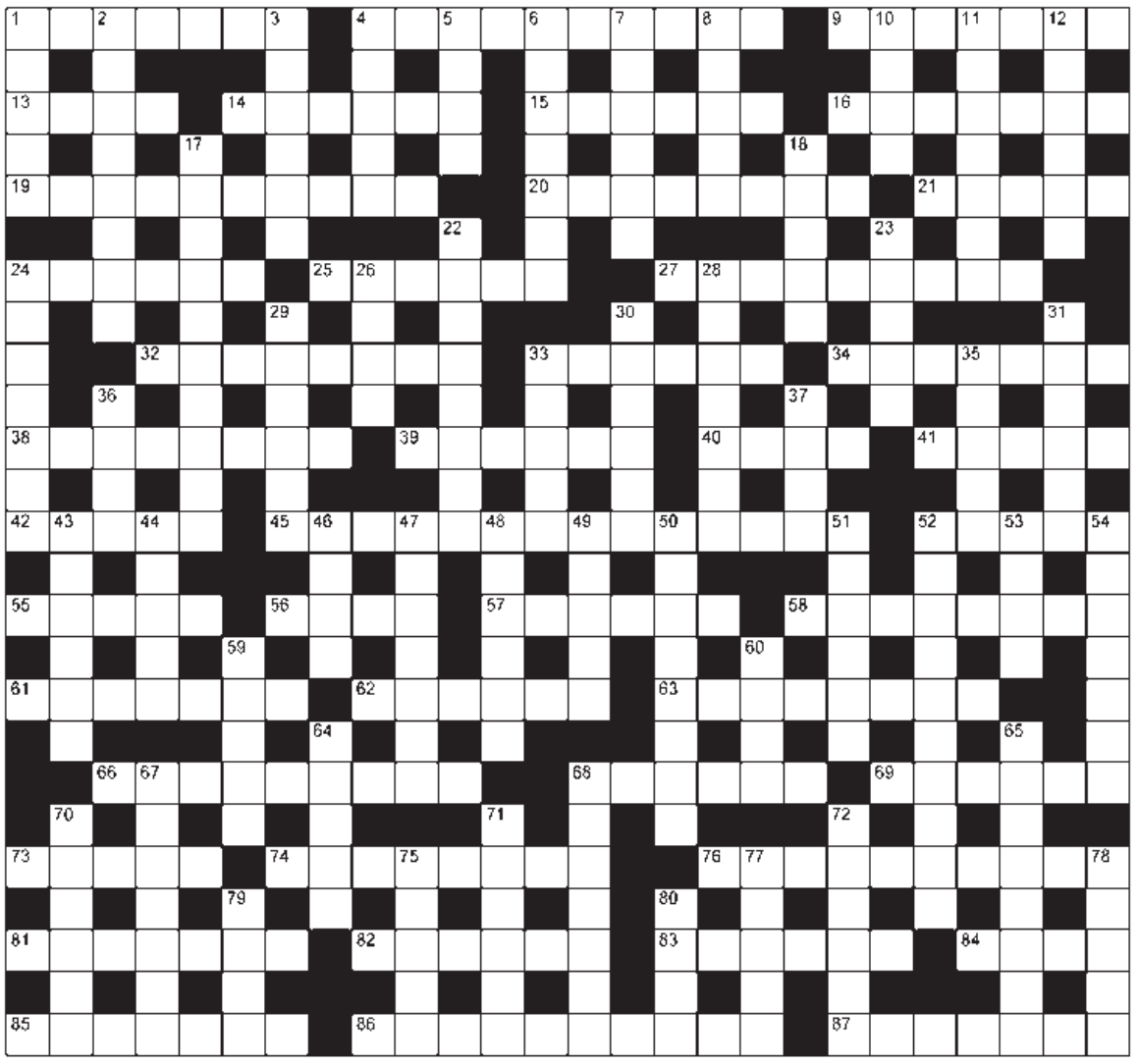
Jumbo crossword

ACROSS

1 Working out (7)
4 Defamatory (10)
9 Mounted troops (7)
13 Hankering (4)
14 Leave (6)
15 Mountain-top (6)
16 Satisfied (7)
19 Of language (10)
20 Voraciously hungry (8)
21 Peer (5)
24 Ledger entry (6)
25 Tracked down (6)
27 Sabre-rattler (9)
32 Wrong (8)
33 Airless (6)
34 Stress (7)
38 Armoured glove (8)
39 Milled (6)
40 Girder (4)
41 Feather pen (5)
42 Horse (5)
45 Meet with no response (4,2,4,4)
52 Psalm (anag)(5)
55 Body organ (5)
56 Dirty fog (4)
57 Took a break (6)
58 Paltry (8)
61 Distorted (7)
62 Rolled document (6)
63 Fall down (8)
66 Bearable (9)
68 Authoritative decision (6)
69 Turns aside (6)
73 Rogue (5)
74 Kept back (8)
76 Robot-like (10)
81 Certificate (7)
82 Film theatre (6)
83 Seafarer (6)
84 Desire (4)
85 Not going (7)
86 Sexually unrestrained (10)
87 Varied (7)

DOWN

1 Stationary (5)
2 One with permit to sell alcoholic drinks (8)
3 Lubricate (6)
4 Hindu teacher (5)
5 Italian wine (4)
6 Wished for (7)
7 Take away (6)
8 Alliance (5)
10 Sailor's shout (4)
11 Old object (7)
12 Airstrip (6)
17 Caused to feel shame (10)
18 Feigned pass (5)
22 Plot outline (8)
23 Beginning (5)
24 Alters (7)
26 Garden tool (4)
28 Good-natured (7)
29 Stifle (anag)(6)
30 Arctic plain (6)
31 Shapeless lump (6)
33 Sea inlet (5)
35 Steam bath (5)
36 Air (4)
37 Impartial (4)
43 Tossed (6)
44 Lives (anag)(5)
46 Ground forces (4)
47 Correctly reasoned (7)
48 Restricted (6)
49 Painter's stand (5)
50 Savagely (8)
51 Small river (6)
52 Death-preventing (10)
53 Principal (4)
54 Gives a sign to (7)
59 First appearance (5)
60 Open pastry (4)
64 Fundamental (5)
65 Comfortable seat (8)
67 Newness (7)
68 Glowing brightly (7)
70 Sign up (6)
71 Cross out (6)
72 Body-wrap (6)
75 Caribbean country (5)
77 Goes out (5)
78 Loose-limbed (5)
79 Portent (4)
80 Capital of Norway (4)





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EACH number in our Code-Cracker grid represents a different letter of the alphabet. For example, today 26 represents S, so fill in S every time the figure 26 appears. You have one letter in the control grid to start you off. Enter it in the appropriate squares in the main grid and solve the starter word. Fill in other squares in the main and control grids with the found letters and look for the next word. Follow the word trail through the puzzle to its completion. *Visit www.codecracker.co.nz*

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

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

© Simon Shuker www.codecracker.co.nz

Sudoku

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

EASY

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

Previous solution

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

Previous solution

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

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

Previous crossword solution

ACROSS: 1 Acute, 4 Make a beeline for, 14 Flare, 15 Spare, 16 Thermostat, 17 Cocoa, 19 Dew, 20 Pendant, 21 Newsprint, 22 Apathy, 25 Certainty, 27 Bedlam, 28 Harden, 33 Scrupulous, 35 Cue, 36 Anchor, 37 Core, 39 Aim, 41 Penalty, 42 Bedeck, 43 Estranged, 44 Upset, 45 Carefree, 50 Up, 51 Animator, 55 Stein, 58 Affidavit, 59 Hikers, 60 Escaped, 61 Sue, 63 Hurl, 64 Regret, 65 All, 66 Simulating, 68 Theory, 69 Florid, 71 Fortitude, 76 Cannon, 77 Obstinate, 79 Condemn, 81 Sir, 84 Taste, 85 Immaterial, 86 Appal, 87 Movie, 88 Pipped at the post, 89 Shaky.

DOWN: 2 Copied, 3 Tired, 5 Ache, 6 Earnest, 7 Browse, 8 Enter, 9 Intoned, 10 Etch, 11 Occupy, 12 Bandy, 13 Between, 14 Factual, 18 Instructor, 23 Pivot, 24 Hatchet, 26 Emulate, 27 Break-up, 29 Drought, 30 Eczema, 31 Scree, 32 Cotton, 34 Shed, 36 Amass, 38 Elder, 40 Calm, 45 Clash, 46 Referee, 47 Fade, 48 Envied, 49 Feast, 50 Unheard, 52 Insulation, 53 Adapted, 54 Oceans, 55 Startle, 56 Skill, 57 Arms, 62 Smuts, 67 Granite, 68 Twosome, 70 Rebuild, 72 Outcrop, 73 Bonsai, 74 Snatch, 75 Embark, 76 Crave, 78 Tempt, 80 Depth, 82 Kelp, 83 Mars.

5x5

B		L		S
	P		S	
T		N		E
	R		E	
H		R		S

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	A	R	O	T
A	P	A	C	E
R	A	T	E	D
T	R	I	A	D
S	T	O	N	Y

WHAT'S ON IN THE COMMUNITY

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

At Wisdom Is Yours Wellbeing Centre
Mediums Day: Saturday 21 November 10am – Opening Meditation. Begin the day by raising your vibration and connecting with like-minded souls. 11am – Presentation of Clairvoyance, Evidential Medium Dylan Fenwick, Local Medium Kevin Strawbridge, Visiting Clairvoyant Medium Sandra Nichols & Local Clairvoyant Medium Natasha Spicer, Plus a couple of special surprises! They will be offering 1 to 1 sessions afterwards: 20 minutes $25. Experience an uplifting demonstration of mediumship and receive messages of guidance, healing, and inspiration from Spirit. Also at Wisdom: Pop-Up Celebration Class Rebirth & Transformation Qi Gong – Saturday 21 November 1pm. Join Rebekha for a flowing afternoon of movement, energy, and transformation. Through gentle Qi Gong practices, you'll be guided to release the old, embrace renewal, and reconnect with your inner vitality. Koha appreciated. Wisdom Is Yours, 59 Victoria Avenue, Whanganui.

'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 (6o 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 / www.thisisyourbible.com

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

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

Lyric Singers Concert
Saturday 21 November, 2pm, Trinity Methodist Church, Wicksteed St. Singer Leah Thomson is a guest artist and Roz Armstron conducts Wanganui Intermediate school's choir. Lyric Singers selection includes "Angels' Carol", "Wade in the Water" and music from *Oliver*. Adults $20, Children under 12 free. Cash only.

Marist Rugby People
Keep 12 December free. AGM and celebrations. Players, sponsors, 100 Club, supporters all welcome. 11am. BBQ and a few ales after the meeting. See you at the club rooms.

MIST Mental illness Survivors Team
203 Victoria Ave, open 9.30am to 3.30pm Monday to Friday. Closed statutory holidays. A place to share activities and socialise. We offer activities, acceptance and support.

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

Rivercity Pickleball
Still wondering what this pickleball is all about? You are welcome to come have a look. Our usual club sessions at Jubilee Stadium are Sunday 3.30pm–5.30pm, Wednesday 9am–11am, Thursday 6pm–8pm. To have a go – beginners must register by email rivercitypickleballnz@gmail.com

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

Wanganui Country Music Club Inc
meets this Sunday 22nd November at the Highland Pipe Band Hall, 1E Bell St. Afternoon concert from 1pm to 4.30pm. This will be our second to last club day for 2026. Door entry Members $5, Non members $6.Great place to have a relaxing afternoon in the middle of the pre-Christmas rush. See you there for great music, singers, raffles and afternoon tea. Enquiries to Terri 021 420 069.

Whanganui Music Society
End-of-Year Concert Sunday 29th November, 4pm. Special guests Leiva Benegas Family on brass. St Paul's Hall, Cooks St. All welcome, $10 entry at the door for non-members.

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.

The West End comes to New Zealand: UK's premier musical theatre concert

'Beyond the Barricade' Returns for 2027 Nationwide Tour

Direct from the UK, the nation's favourite musical theatre concert *Beyond the Barricade* is set to make a triumphant return to New Zealand. Celebrating its 27th anniversary year, this blockbusting production brings the magic, passion, and show-stopping hits of London's West End and Broadway to audiences across the country in July 2027.

Starring four past principal performers from the West End and UK touring productions of *Les Misérables*, *Beyond the Barricade* delivers a breathtaking two-hour concert packed with iconic songs. Accompanied by a top-tier ensemble of live musicians, the powerhouse cast recreates the authentic orchestrations and soaring harmonies of the world's most beloved musicals.

From recent sensations including *Paddington*, *Hamilton*, and *Come From Away*, to immortal classics such as *The Phantom of the Opera*, *Chicago*, *Miss Saigon*, and *Jesus Christ Superstar*, the evening builds to a thrilling finale featuring the powerful music of *Les Misérables*.

Since its inception, *Beyond the Barricade* has captivated over one million theatregoers worldwide, selling out prestigious venues from London's Royal Albert Hall across Asia and Australia, and garnering critical acclaim. Next year's tour will be the show's third visit to New Zealand, having previously played to packed houses across the country in 2016 and 2018. The concert's long-awaited return since Covid promises an unmissable night of world-class entertainment. As Stuff.co.nz raved during their last visit: "Boy, do they know how to please a crowd!"

When: Wednesday, 7 July

Where: Royal Whanganui Opera House

Tickets: Eventfinda


Beyond the Barricade cast

Recent Bereavements

Sadly passed away recently...

David Robert Charles ARCHER
on 15 November 2026, aged 88 years.

Jack William COOPER
on 15 November 2026, aged 90 years.

Colleen Mary CROMIE
on 13 November 2026, aged 93.

Noel James KENNY
on 14 November 2026, aged 81 years.

Te Oro Mathew MAKATEA
on 15 November 2026, aged 85 years.

Sandra McCROSTIE
on 7 November 2026, aged 85 years.

Lesley Tupu UTI-PA'A ADROLE
on 2 November 2026, aged 50 years.

Stuart Earle WAIGHT
on 7 November 2026, aged 85 years.

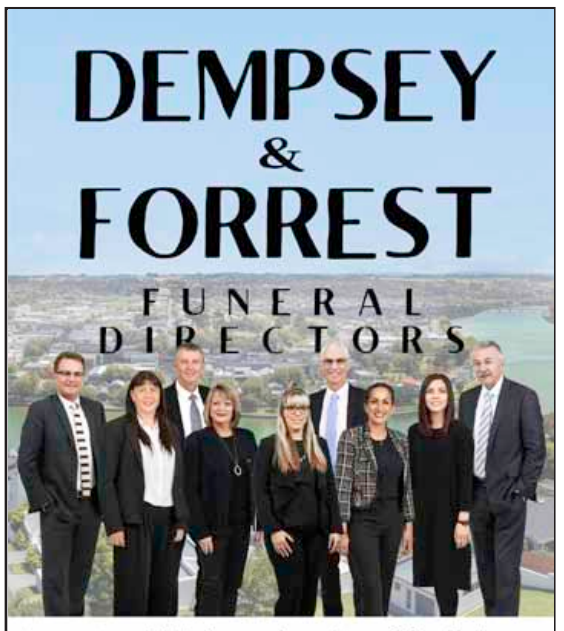
BEREAVEMENT NOTICE

CLARK, Frederick Archie (Fred)
passed away 3 Nov 2026, aged 87

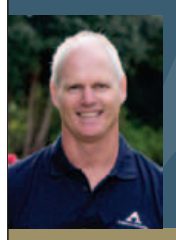
Beloved Father of Carol Marchant and Selina Growden. Grandfather to Micheal and Christopher Growden and husband of first wife Marie Ngaire Cook. Beloved eldest son of Archie and Hope Clark (dcd). Loved Brother to Kathleen, Phillip(dcd), Raymond (dcd) and Ron.

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Council housing: two information sessions to explain the options



Councillor Kate Joblin, the council's housing champion, invites Whanganui residents to attend one of two information sessions on council housing. Residents have every right to ask questions, and the council wants everyone to have clear, accurate information so they can make up their own minds.

Session dates

- Thursday 26 November, 4.30–6pm, St Pauls in the City
- Thursday 3 December, 4.30–6pm, St Pauls in the City

Council's 275 older persons' homes. No decisions have been made. The council is looking at options for the 2027–2037 Long-Term Plan. Security of tenancy remains the council's priority, and rents are currently capped at 32 percent of pension for singles and 27 percent for couples. In 2026/27, rent revenue is forecast to fall about $490,000 short of running costs, so funding changes will likely be needed. Tenants and the community will be consulted before any decision, and no decision has been made to transfer these homes to a trust. The council will continue to talk with tenants and the community before any options go out for Long-Term Plan consultation.

A proposed independent housing trust. This is a separate question. Whanganui builds about 90 homes a year and needs roughly 2,000 over the next ten years. The council is considering the establishment of a housing trust, independent of the council, and a decision is expected by Christmas. Funding options will be considered through the Long-Term Plan, with public consultation.

Neither decision relies on the other, and each could proceed, change or stop on its own merits.

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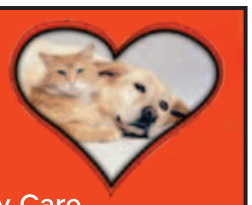
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PUBLIC NOTICES

SECTION 101
SALE AND SUPPLY OF ALCOHOL ACT 2012

Laird Park Bowling Club Incorporated, 92 Peat Street, Whanganui has made application to the District Licensing Committee at Whanganui for the **renewal of a Club Licence** in respect of the premises situated at 92 Peat Street, Whanganui, and known as Laird Park Bowling Club.

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

The days on which and the hours during which alcohol is sold under the licence are **Sunday to Wednesday, 8.30am to 8.00pm; Thursday, Friday, Saturday and public holidays, 8.30am to 12 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 only publication of this notice.

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

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Whanganui Swim Club celebrates successful West Coast Champs and award-winning season



Whanganui Swim Club swim team for West Coast Swimming Champs.

It has been a big few weeks for the Whanganui Swim Club, with a successful West Coast Swimming Championships followed by well deserved recognition for several swimmers at regional and local sports awards.

The Splash Centre was buzzing on Sunday, 1 November, as close to 150 swimmers from 12 clubs across the Manawatū and Taranaki regions gathered for the West Coast Champs.

Whanganui Swim Club had a strong team of 51 swimmers, aged between 8 and 17, competing throughout the day. There were plenty of personal best times, medal-winning performances and exciting relay races, with swimmers showing great determination in the pool and fantastic support for their teammates.

The event was a great opportunity for swimmers of all abilities to challenge themselves and enjoy the competition, with plenty of team spirit and excitement poolside. After a busy day of racing, swimmers enjoyed some well earned fresh pizza from Pizzacato.

The club extends a huge thank you to its generous sponsors: Silks Audit, Adrian Lyne of Property Brokers, Form Building, Independent Limited, Terry Arbuckle, MacEll Maintenance & Electrical Ltd, Hawkeye Contracting, Phillips Electrical, Mt View, Subway, PAK'nSAVE and Pizzacato, alongside ongoing supporters Loaders Civil and NZCT.

Thanks also go to the officials, team managers, marshals, timekeepers and volunteers behind the scenes who gave up their time to make the event possible, and the Splash Centre team, and coaches Richard and Trevor for their continued support.

The championships also provided an opportunity to celebrate seven club members receiving Swimming Manawatū's Recognition of Age Group Excellence (RAGE) awards for the year ending 30 June 2026.

The recipients were Heidi Bennetts (10 years), Ataahua Wilson-Winterburn (11), Lachlan Baskett (11), Ziva Bunker (13), Ryleigh Dorricott (14), Rachel Pui (15) and Paige Conley (16).

The awards recognise the highest performing swimmer in each age group, based on FINA points accumulated across freestyle, backstroke, breaststroke, butterfly and individual medley.

Further success followed at the Mitre 10 MEGA Whanganui Secondary Schools Sports Awards. Ziva Bunker was named Junior National Sportswoman of the Year, adding to her recent achievement of being named 2026 Manawatū Junior Swimmer of the Year.

Paige Conley also received recognition, sharing the Senior International Sportswomen of the Year award with Alexis Toy from Whanganui Girls' College.

These achievements reflect the dedication, commitment and hard work of the swimmers, along with the support of their coaches and families. Whanganui Swim Club is incredibly proud of its swimmers and the way they continue to represent their club and community, both in and out of the pool.

Interested in joining the Whanganui Swim Club? Whether you're looking to develop your skills, enjoy the challenge of competition or simply be part of a great team environment, there's plenty of fun to be had in the pool! Get in touch with coach Richard at gheelrichard7@gmail.com to arrange a swimming assessment and find out more about becoming part of the club.

Target shooting

Outdoor Target Shooting results 11/11/26

Gary Cuff 292, Patrick McCartie 287, Raewyne Simpson 286, Dave Westcott 284, Marshall Munro 284, Aria Hill 283, William Hird 275, Glen McCartie 272, Finlay Rhodes 268.

Marist rise from 44/5 to beat Palmy Boys' High as Lance father and son share a wicket on debut for United

Marist rise from 44/5 to beat Palmy Boys' High as Lance father and son share a wicket on debut for United.

Marist produced the comeback of the Coastal Challenge season on Saturday, recovering from 44/5 to beat Palmerston North Boys' High School 1st XI by five wickets with two balls to spare at PNBHS.

Chasing 218, Marist slumped to 44/5 before Shaun O'Leary (90 not out) and Mark Fraser (83 not out) batted through the rest of the innings, adding an unbroken 176 for the sixth wicket to reach 220/5 in the final over. Earlier, Boys' High were bowled out for 217, with Scott Davidson (53) and captain William Madden (52) the main contributors. Thomas Redpath (2/34), Tim O'Leary (2/35), and Tom Scott (2/24) shared the wickets with Shaun O'Leary, who also took 2/40.

It was a special day at Ongley Park for Whanganui United's Lance family. Archie Lance, who is in the Cricket Whanganui Under 13 pathway side, made his Premier 1 debut alongside his father Tom, and the pair combined to dismiss Palmerston North Marist's Jett Donald-Charnley, caught by Archie off Tom's bowling. Archie added a wicket of his own to finish with 1/35, while Tom took 2/43.



Tom (left) and Archie Lance, who played Premier 1 together for Whanganui United at Ongley Park on Saturday.

The result did not go United's way. Palmerston North Marist made 259, and United were well placed at 116/2 after captain Carter Hobbs (63) and Daniel Burgess (25) put on 62 for the first wicket. Trey Bidois (4/20) sparked a collapse of eight wickets for 43, and United were bowled out for 159 to lose by 100 runs.

Marton Saracens went down by 31 runs to Greytown at Greytown Memorial Park. Josh White took 3/30 and Saracens had Greytown 112/8, but a 51-run ninth wicket stand between Jacob Clark (41) and Shaun Dudson (18 not out) lifted them to 163/9. Hamish Marshall (31) and Eddie Marshall (28) top scored in Marton's reply of 132, with Greytown captain Quinn Childs taking 3/25.

Elsewhere, Freyberg beat Palmerston North's United by one wicket with three balls left, with Brad Fulton taking 5/43, and Red Star/Lansdowne beat Palmerston North Old Boys by five wickets, with Patrick Wootton taking 4/29. Round 4 was lost to rain the previous Saturday.

Cricket Whanganui General Manager Peter Bowman said it was a round to remember for Whanganui players.

"Coming back from 44/5 away from home shows real character from Shaun and Mark.

"Seeing Archie make his Premier 1 debut alongside his Dad, and the two of them combining for a wicket, is what cricket dreams are made of!"

The Premier 2 and Premier 3 T20 competitions hit the halfway mark on Saturday, and both races are wide open. In Premier 2, Josh Trillo (64 off 36) and Jack Donaldson (59 off 34) powered Renegades to 159/3 and a 45-run win over United 2nd XI. Hamish McConachy (53) set up a 17-run win for Hunterville over Marist 2nd XI, despite Kane Watkin's 80 off 63 balls, and Marton Saracens chased down Wicket Warriors' 129/4 with eight wickets in hand, despite Pradeep Gopala Pillai's 54.

In Premier 3, Deek Reuters hit 84 off 55 balls as Kaitoke Knightriders beat Titans by 27 runs, with Mafua Tongotea taking 3/36, while Bruce McGregor made 50 not out for Titans. United 3rd XI defended 110/8 to beat Marton Saracens by eight runs, with Noel Groube taking 3/14 and Lucas Stembridge 3/23 for Marton.

Supplied by Peter Bowman, General Manager, Cricket Whanganui

Target Shooting

Target Shooting Wanganui outdoor results

14 October: Gary Cuff 292, Patrick McCartie 283, Raewyne Simpson 281, Dave Westcott 273, William Hird 273, Marshall Munro 266, Finlay Rhodes 259, Glen McCartie 255.

21 October: Raewyne Simpson 287, Dave Westcott 286, Aria Hill 283, Marshall Munro 282, Patrick McCartie 281, Finlay Rhodes 280, William Hird 266, Glen McCartie 262.

28 October: Gary Cuff 286, Dave Westcott 282, Raewyne Simpson 281, Jim Dann 274, William Hird 268, Finlay Rhodes 263, Glen McCartie 258, Marshall Munro 254.

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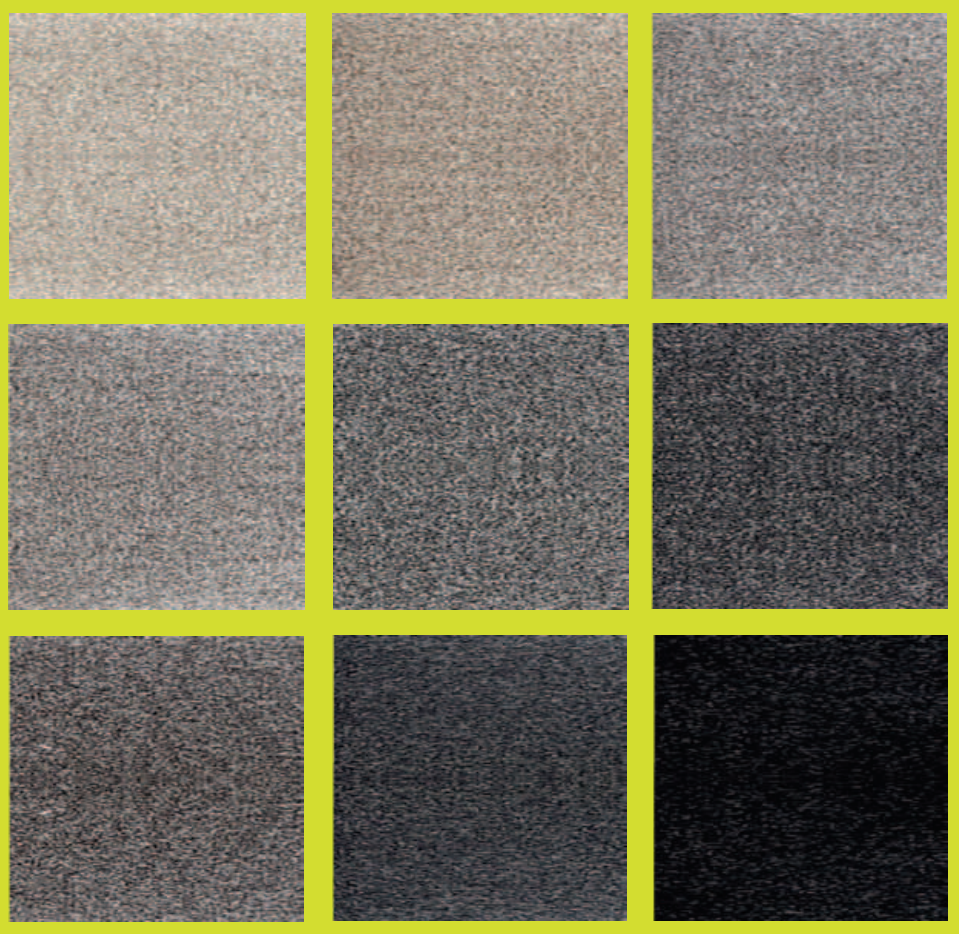
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