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Whanganui – the one and only

BY LOUISE FOLLETT

Our region, river and city, as of 9 November 2026, have become one: they all now share the name Whanganui. The city no longer has the dual-name status of Whanganui or Wanganui.

The change comes through the Ngā Hapū o Te Iwi o Whanganui Claims Settlement Act 2026. It's a significant step, redressing an error that arose when early European settlers began recording the name as "Wanganui". They misunderstood the local Whanganui Māori pronunciation of "wh" – a soft or lightly aspirated sound, unlike the more common "f" sound in other Māori dialects.

From 1840, the township was known as Petre (pronounced Peter), after a New Zealand Company director. In 1844, early settlers petitioned the government to change the name to Wanganui, and the town was formally renamed through an Act of the Provincial Council on 20 January 1854.

There have always been European defenders of the original spelling. As mayor in September 1902, Alexander Hatrick tabled a motion in the Borough Council to insert the "h" so the town's name would revert to "the original Māori mode of spelling". The motion was defeated. Bishop William Williams had earlier made a similar point, writing that "it is no more correct to write and say 'Wanganui' for 'Whanganui' than it would be to write and say 'Ampstead Eath' and plead the examples there of the natives."

Despite these and later efforts, the official misspelling continued for the next 152 years. Two local referendums, in 2006 and 2009, both strongly rejected the inclusion of the "h". After further research, however, the Minister for Land Information, Maurice Williammson, made both Wanganui and Whanganui official in 2009. Whanganui District Council chose to adopt the corrected spelling in November 2015.

Controversy has surrounded the council's decision to reinstate the "h" over the last 11 years, with strongly held views on both sides. Language, though, is a powerful tool of expression and identity. The failure of some early settlers to recognise similarities between the two languages – such as the existence of silent letters – has finally been put to rest. There has, for example, been no recorded call to rename Christchurch "Cristchurch" or Thames "Tames".

Former mayor Annette Main, who was significant in ushering in the change from Wanganui District Council to Whanganui District Council in 2015, says, "It's been really confusing over the years, and I'm glad to see that, in this process, that has now been clarified.

"It's great that there's some other name changes as well, of course.

"Along the Whanganui River Road, all those places have now got their names back, which is where I used to live, at Ōtukopiri. I've called it Ōtukopiri for years since I found that out."

Mayor Andrew Tripe explained his understanding of the Whanganui with the H, saying that at the end of the day the community has largely moved on, and Whanganui is now normalised. "Our iwi and hapu know the history; it's a Māori name and they have the knowledge of its meaning."

The river was renamed from Wanganui River to Whanganui River in 1991, the district from Wanganui District to Whanganui District in 2017, and the region to Manawatū-Whanganui in 2019. Now the district, region, river and city finally share the same name.

Private businesses and organisations are not required to change their company names, trading names, or branding. This has been the consistent position from Land Information New Zealand (LINZ) and successive ministers.

Several other official geographic names have also changed, as recorded in the First Schedule of the 2026 settlement gazette notice – the government notice that formally records the details of a Treaty of Waitangi settlement. These include:

- Kaimatira (historic site; former local-use name Sparrow Cliff)
- Kākata (historic pā site; former recorded name Atene Pa)
- Mawae (island in the river; former recorded name Corliss Island, about 5 kilometres upstream of the river mouth)
- Ōtukopiri (locality; former recorded name Koriniti Pa)
- Puketūtū (hill; former local-use name Mount Featherston)
- Pūtikiwharanui-a-Tamatea-pōkai-whenua (historic site; former recorded name Putiki Pa)



Photo of the Collegiate School Inter House Shooting Trophy – made in 1912 clearly showing the 'h' in Whanganui.

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Still time to enter the Light Up Christmas competition

The community Christmas lights display and competition, Light Up Christmas, is about to enter its third year thanks to Jude, Jeff and Dante from Sims & Co Realty, who resurrected it after it was thought to be lost in 2024. Since then, the much-loved event has grown to roughly three times its original number of displays.

Light Up Christmas runs from 1 December until 22 December, and the Sims & Co crew emphasise it's all about participation and community enjoyment, especially for children and families facing a difficult year.

Entries currently sit in the mid-20s, with the goal of reaching 30 or more. The categories include Supreme, Give It a Go, Business, and People's Choice, which is selected by community voting. There is also a children's colouring-in competition, and, new this year, an adult's colouring-in competition. No, the subject matter won't be Comet or Cupid caught in a compromising position.

"We just try and keep it open to everybody. We have the Give It a Go category, which is for absolutely anybody. And what we want to do is encourage more people to sign up," says Jeff.

There are no strict requirements for how elaborate a display must be or how often it must be switched on.

"Just anyone is welcome. Even if they can only light up their house a couple of nights a week, that's fine. We appreciate that not everyone can have it for the full month," adds Jude.

Homeowners and businesses may also have their address included on the viewing list without competing.

Light Up Christmas embodies the values of Christmas: people open up the grounds of their homes to demonstrate the joy of the season through lights, businesses light up shopfronts as a shout-out to the season, and visitors share the experience of viewing displays with their creators. It's about opportunities for community connection and conversation – and that little bit of wonder that resides in all of us, young and old.

The organisers described the competition as welcoming and fun, rather than focused on winning.

A winner in 2025 at 14 Poutama Place is entering again this year and is also providing a prize.

"He won the Supreme Award last year, so I think he's paying it forward. He's a hell of a nice guy," says Jude.

On the topic of paying it forward, last year's Business category winner, Whanganui Community Living Trust, passed its prize on to a family in need. Donations can also be directed to the Trust to pass on goodwill to those in the community who are struggling at this time of year.

Non-perishable food items for the Trust can be dropped off at the Sims & Co Sims office at 17 Victoria Avenue.

The team at Sims & Co has huge respect for everyone who enters Light Up Christmas for their hard work, creativity, and the joy they bring to the community.

There's still time to enter – go to simsandco.nz/Christmas. Don't be shy.

River City Press will publish a list of the homes and businesses displaying this year, and the map and colouring competition picture are also available at simsandco.nz/Christmas from 1 December.

Jude, Jeff and Dante want to give a shout-out to "the help of our wonderful sponsors – we can have more and more prizes every year."

If you would like to support this iconic event as a sponsor, contact Jude, Jeff or Dante at Sims & Co Realty at hello@simsandco.nz or phone 0800 124 550.



14 Poutama Place, winner of the Supreme Award for Light Up Christmas 2025.



Sounds of Life concert at Majestic Square this Saturday



Finlay Barrett, a teenager at Whanganui High School, has been supporting his mother as she goes through treatment for liver cancer. He and his mate Max, both musicians, have organised a free concert, Sounds for Life, to raise funds for cancer research and support services.

A top line-up of bands will donate their time for the fundraiser: The Rustlers, Riptide, Ngā hau e whā, Lights Go Out, and Root Providers – Majestic Square, Saturday 28 November 12 noon to 4pm.

The bands' support is impressive, and others have embraced the chance to support Findlay's cause, too. Whanganui High School has offered the use of their music equipment and PA system; Property Brokers will be providing their trailer BBQ for the sausage sizzle, and more supporters have come on board, too: eHaus Whanganui and Dentist on Glasgow

Finlay and Max's friends and family will also be volunteering on the day to support the event.

It takes a community to drive change, and you're invited to support the cause.

Finlay says, when asked about how the event was shaping up, "I'm feeling good about it, actually. I'm quite excited. It's going to be good."

All proceeds raised will be split evenly between the Cancer Society, Child Cancer Foundation, Breast Cancer Foundation and Cancer Research Trust.



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Almost 4000 students compete in Tough Kid®, Tough Teen and Quiet Hour events

Cooks Gardens was buzzing with energy last week as this year's Mitre 10 MEGA Whanganui Tough Kid®, Tough Teen and Quiet Hour events brought together thousands of young people from across the region for two unforgettable days of fun, challenge and achievement.

The event kicked off on Thursday morning with Quiet Hour, welcoming 216 participants for a supportive, low-sensory experience on the course. Students and participants were encouraged to complete obstacles at their own pace, with sensory stations, adapted activities and a wheelchair-accessible course ensuring everyone could get involved and enjoy the experience.

In the afternoon, 825 secondary school students took on the Tough Teen challenge. Determination, teamwork and school spirit were on full display throughout the course, with Whanganui High School taking home the coveted Toughest School title after an outstanding display of participation, enthusiasm and support across the event.

Friday saw 2,712 primary and intermediate school students descend on Cooks Gardens for the iconic Tough Kid® event. The track was filled with laughter, encouragement and plenty of mud as tamariki climbed, crawled, splashed and scrambled their way through the obstacles.

A highlight of the day was the appearance of the mascots who helped to bring the vibes up throughout the event. Life Education Trust's Harold the Giraffe, Cancer Society's Undercover Cody, Subway St John's Subman and Plumber Dan's Duck.

The Mitre 10 MEGA Whanganui Tough Kid®, Tough Teen and Quiet Hour events continue to be made possible through the incredible support of local businesses, community organisations and volunteers who contribute their time, expertise and resources each year.

Sport Whanganui would like to extend its sincere thanks to principal sponsor Mitre 10 MEGA Whanganui, along with obstacle sponsors and supporters Resene, Cookie Time, Subway St John's, Bridgestone, Cemetery Circuit, EVO, Whanganui Rugby, Display Associates, Bayleys, Barred Up, Plumber Dan, Pak'nSave, Athletics Whanganui, Mickey Beatson, Shane Stone, Loaders & Drain World.

Additional thanks go to Te Oranganui, Whanganui Regional Health Network, Cancer Society, New Zealand Police, Fire and Emergency New Zealand, New Zealand Cadet Forces, Surf Life Saving New Zealand, Life Education Trust, Whanganui Boys & Girls Gym Club, Whanganui Women's Network, Gallagher Insurance, Aotea Central Wardens, our dedicated student helpers and the many community volunteers who helped ensure a safe and successful event.

The continued support from schools, sponsors, volunteers and community groups makes these events a highlight of the school calendar and provides young people with opportunities to challenge themselves, build confidence, work together and most importantly, have fun.

Sport Whanganui looks forward to welcoming participants back next year for another memorable adventure through mud, obstacles and teamwork.





Cullinane College adopts the Hidden Disabilities Sunflower Scheme

Cullinane College is finding new ways to put their values into practice by adopting the Hidden Disabilities Sunflower Scheme (HDSS). This global project highlights support for people with non-visible disabilities. The scheme began at London's Gatwick Airport in 2016.

Anyone with a hidden disability, for example, autism, ADHD, chronic pain, anxiety, sensory needs, dementia, respiratory or chronic illnesses, can choose to wear a bright green lanyard, badge, wristband or cap with a yellow sunflower design that quietly communicates: "I have something you might not see, and I may need a bit of extra help, time, or understanding."

It's a great way for people with no visible disabilities to remain connected and safe in a community. Public spaces are particularly important, such as airports, transport, shops, events, hospitals and, of course, schools and universities.

The Catholic Diocese of Palmerston North officially adopted the scheme in 2025 and set about implementing the scheme in its parishes, schools, and faith communities. Cullinane College was the first Catholic college of the Palmerston North diocese to launch the scheme.

"David Loving-Molloy works as the Leader and Advisor of Inclusiveness in the Palmerston North dicoese. He is responsible for training and awareness work across schools, parishes and faith communities," says Simon Grant, TiC (Teacher in Charge), Te Whare Akoranga – Cullinane College Learning Centre.



"Currently there are two Year 12 volunteer students promoting the Sunflower scheme at Cullinane College, and we are hoping there will be more volunteers next year."

He adds, "A student experiencing a non-visible disability might be thinking of attending university, and it would be informative for them to know that Auckland University has adopted the Sunflower Scheme. Also, if they were travelling overseas, the scheme is widely known and adopted in Australia."

Simon explains, "Research has shown that one in five people in New Zealand and Australia experience some form of disability, and 80 to 85 percent of these are non-visible disabilities.

"The Sunflower Scheme aligns with the Catholic character of all our schools as it helps students learn to be kind, and if they see a student wearing a green sunflower lanyard or badge, they can approach them and ask: 'Can I help you?'"

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Whanganui Surf Lifeguard Services Inc raising funds for new building!

$3.5 million needed for new clubrooms

Whanganui Surf Lifeguard Services (WSLS) and its role in saving lives and education have been vital to our community – we get to enjoy sun and surf sensibly, knowing the lifeguards are there if trouble strikes. Now the club is on a mission to demolish and rebuild their vital clubrooms over the next three years.

The upcoming Jandal Day, 2 December, a nationwide fundraiser for equipment for surf lifesaving clubs, is a reminder that Whanganui's most pressing issue is building a new facility – one that houses equipment and people, gives on-duty guards a break, secures equipment safely, and provides a place to educate generations on water safety.

Daniel Brown, who is leading the building project at the club, says "We've currently got two major funders: Surf Life Saving New Zealand and Whanganui District Council."

Whanganui District Council has earmarked 1 million dollars in its 2024–2034 Long-Term Plan, deferred to 2026/27, as a contribution, conditional on the rest of the funding being secured.

But with over $3.5 million to raise, community support is vital.

Its current clubrooms, located at Castlecliff Beach, may be a mere 70 years old, but they're not wearing their age well. The club's heart, on the other hand, is more popular than ever with youth and supported by experienced lifeguards.

According to Daniel, the new build will also consider the next 70 years: "In the design, we are incorporating future-proofing elements into the building, and we won't take up the entire footprint of the existing site. That's one of the key considerations so that if our club membership numbers expand in the future, then we can add on a bay and extend the upstairs training space."

It's also the main base for not one beach, but two – Castlecliff and Mowhanau Beach – making it one of the few NZ clubs that routinely patrols more than one beach simultaneously throughout the season.

Daniel is grateful to the Well-LUG organisation with its support at the Brickanui Lego show in April, which kindly raised funds towards WSLS. The upcoming Whanganui Christmas Market has the WSLS as its chosen charity partner. All these efforts will help towards new clubrooms.

The club is also grateful to Progress Castlecliff for the use of the Duncan Pavilion: "We've worked closely with them over the years, and they've been extremely accommodating since we decided to vacate our building. They have given us the use of the Duncan Pavilion on the Sunday mornings, particularly when we have junior surf sessions," says Daniel.



The current 70-year-old clubrooms. Photo by Alanah Brown Photographer.

In terms of the current clubrooms, Daniel explains, "We're not using the top level, and we are only using the downstairs area for bulk storage."

In the meantime, the club continues with its education programme for schools, keeping the public as safe as possible at both Castlecliff and Mowhanau beaches.

"We have on offer training for children as young as five years old. There are three different age groupings that we cater for," says Daniel. They are Nippers, Juniors and Cadets/Rookies.

They offer surf lifeguard training and senior competitions, a Search and Rescue Squad for over-18s, and Patrol Support.

The club continues to grow and punch above its weight at carnivals, with strong results at regional awards, thanks in large part to enthusiasm and commitment from long serving club member Daniel Comp, says Daniel Brown. "Compy is a cornerstone of our club and we incredibly grateful for his contributions each week, not just during the season, but throughout the year."

If you are keen on being part of building a future legacy for the Whanganui Surf Lifeguard Services, contact Daniel Brown at danielbrown.akl@gmail.com.

If you are interested in joining the club, visit wanganuisls.org.nz

DONATE TODAY

You can donate to Wanganui Surf Lifeguard Service Inc via a direct transfer.

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Weekend lifeguard patrols start on 28 November at Kai Iwi and Castlecliff.

Full-time patrols start at Castlecliff on 12 November and at Kai Iwi on 19 November.

To view the exact hours and days when patrolling is present, go to https://wanganuisls.org.nz/beach-info.

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Celebrating five years of selling unique handmade art in Pūtiki

Art and gift gallery Eightyeight Pūtiki, who proudly supports artists, creators and designers from Whanganui and across Aotearoa, is celebrating five years in business at the beginning of December.

Owner Helene Hall started the gallery with her own original art, fine art prints, notebooks, greeting cards, wrapping paper and colouring books. Now the gallery is home to a great variety of art and gifts from over 70 artists, creators and designers.

"I couldn't have done it without the incredible support and encouragement from my husband Graham; he inspired me early on to add a coffee machine, which has turned the gallery into a vibrant place to meet up with friends and whānau while shopping for authentic arts and gifts.



Owner Helene Hall inside Eightyeight Pūtiki.

"Our community has been amazing in its support for us adding vibrancy into Pūtiki's everyday life," Helene says.

The gallery has fitted right into the Pūtiki community, with locals sharing stories and memories of visiting the building when it was the local dairy. There have also been many accounts from previous owners, several of whom were artists who brought their own creative energy to the space.

Conversations with customers make the day for Helene, Graham and their team, and the place buzzes with chat.

"Customers always have wonderful reactions when they first visit us, saying they've never seen anything like this before, and it's such a unique offering. They love that they are buying something made by a human that is 100% unique and has a beautiful story.

"We love the kōrero and stories that we have over the counter, the connections we make with them and our artists. I just absolutely love what we do. It makes my heart full."

For those who can't visit in person, Helene says the next best thing is to shop via Eightyeight Pūtiki's social media platforms: www.facebook.com/eightyeightputiki www.instagram.com/eightyeightputiki

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Blind Spot with Marion Hainsworth

The Association of Blind Citizens (ABC) will be holding their final gathering for this year as a Christmas luncheon at the Whanganui East Club, Wakefield Street, starting at 12 noon. The van will be available for transport – please contact Allie between 10am and 1pm Mondays to Thursdays: (06) 348-4401. The 2027 Large Print calendars will be available at this function – free to members and $13.00 for non-members.

The temporary office is in Community House, located at 60 Ridgeway Street, Whanganui.

December office dates and times:

- Wednesday 2 December: Room 101, 9am–12pm.
- Wednesday 9 December: Room 108, 9am–11am.
- Wednesday 16 December: Room 108, 9am–10.45am.

The Christmas holiday break will be from 23 December 2026 until 13 January 2027.

January office dates and times:

- Wednesday 13 January: Room 108, 9am–12pm.
- Wednesday 20 January: Room 108, 9am–12pm.
- Wednesday 27 January: Room 108, 9am–12pm.

Members wish to thank all volunteers for their continued, much valued support and assistance throughout the year, and we wish you all Season's Greetings and happy holidays.

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9am - 3pm, Saturday 28 November 2026 ★ Broadway and Marton Park

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★ Bouncy Castles ★ Bubble Ball ★ Retail Stores ★ Food Stalls ★ Live Music ★

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MartonMarketDay
For more info email events@rangitikei.govt.nz

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Shaun says the decision to be a Ziptrak agent and fit the range products was easy: "Ziptrak blinds handle Whanganui's wind well and are so easy to use that our customers actually spend more time outside year-round. We can help people turn decks and pergolas into usable living spaces."

The outdoor system offers a choice of track-guided or cord-guided, mesh or PVC skins – clear or tinted.

The track-guided blinds connect at the sides, providing a completely sealed surface. Ziptrak® outdoor blinds shield you, your space and your furniture from wind, rain, dust, UV, glare and insects. Making your outdoor space a much more usable room, no matter what the weather – offering privacy but maintaining your view.

There is a choice of hand- or remote-operated systems. The blinds have a Centre Lock Release, meaning that when the blind is fully down, it locks into place automatically; there's no rattling in the wind.

The range also offers cord-guided options, which are ideal for balconies, pergolas, and open alfresco areas where side tracks can't be used.

A variety of colours are available to choose from to fit seamlessly with your décor while creating a cool environment in summer and warmth in winter.

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Shaun Terrey Upholsterers are here to advise on the best product for your home, whether it's a new build or an existing one, and to create custom-made blinds that fit like a glove.

If you're looking to get the most out of your home, indoors or outdoors in any season, give Shaun a call and arrange a quote.

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Shaun Terrey with a sample Ziptrak®.

Pigeon racing results

This week the St Johns Racing Pigeon Club Adjunct raced from Taipa which is north of Kaitaia and approximately 566km from Whanganui.

The race determined the winner of the Yearling Championship for 2026 and also the Memorial Trophy for past members.

Dave Lacy won the Yearling Championship with his bird achieving a speed of 1079.35m/m or 64.76km/hr. Second place went to Brad Fairweather1069.17m/m or 64.15km/hr and third to Heather Verstraeten 1068.23m/m or 64.09km/hr. next was Shane Guddop 1065.88m/m or 63.95km/hr, Benedick Galanida 1044.17m/m or 62.65km/hr, Alois Verstraeten 1042.77m/m or 62.56km/hr and Don lacy 1002.91m/m or 60.17km/hr.

The Memorial Trophy is based on the average speed of the first two old birds home in each loft and was won by Shane Guddop 1134m/m or 68.06km/hr. In second place Jim Pullins 1067.03m/m or 64km/hr with Benedick Galanida taking out the third placing. Next was Brad Fairweather 1039.81m/m or 62.08km/hr, Dave Lacy 1032.64m/m or 61.95km/hr, Alois Verstraeten 973.38m/m or 58.40km/hr and Heather Verstraeten 939.34m/m or 56.36km/hr.

Last weekend's race from Christchurch was won by Shane Guddop with a speed of 1056m/m or 63.36km/hr and second was Brad Fairweather 746m/m or 44.75km/hr.

The birds will have a couple of weeks rest before the last races for the season.

The North birds fly from Cape Reinga and the South birds fly from Ashburton.

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Family history comes to life in new book launching in Whanganui

Behind every name on a family tree is a life worth discovering. For writer and genealogist Becs Amundsen, that idea has become the foundation of her first book, *Pieces of Generations Before*, launching at the Alexander Library – Te Rerenga Mai o Te Kāuru on 5 December 2026.

Blending genealogy, storytelling and memoir, the book explores the lives of Amundsen's ancestors who first arrived in Aotearoa New Zealand in the 1800s, ordinary people whose experiences intersected with significant events in New Zealand's colonial history.

Amundsen has been fascinated by family history since childhood, especially her colonial ancestors, collecting photographs, documents and family treasures that offer glimpses into the lives of generations before her.

"I've always been interested in the people behind the names and dates on a family tree. We can discover where people lived, when they married and when they died, but that doesn't necessarily tell us who they were, what their lives were like, or why they left their Home country to live in New Zealand," says Amundsen.

"I wanted to explore those lives in a different way, using historical research and storytelling to imagine some of the moments, experiences and decisions that shaped them."

Drawing on genealogical records, historical newspapers, photographs and other sources, *Pieces of Generations Before* combines researched facts with imagined narratives to bring the experiences of past generations closer to the reader.

Whanganui and the surrounding district feature prominently in several of the family stories. Among them is John Garner, who arrived in New Zealand in 1840 and became the first chief constable of Whanganui. The book also explores the lives of Walter and Anne Taylor, who arrived in Whanganui in the early 1860s with a number of children, including a son Walter. Walter married Jane Perry, whose history is connected to Turakina. The Mosen family with ties to Raetihi also features in the book.

"Whanganui and the Alexander Library – Te Rerenga Mai o Te Kāuru in particular is a meaningful place to launch the book because as a young person I spent many hours here researching these people," says Amundsen.

The project also prompted questions that went well beyond family history.

"As I researched my ancestors, I became increasingly aware that their stories were also part of a much bigger story about colonisation and the development of New Zealand," says Amundsen.

"It's easy to focus on the hardships and achievements of early European settlers without considering the wider consequences of settlement, particularly for Māori. I wanted to acknowledge that history and think more deeply about what it means to be descended from those settlers."

Alongside the ancestral stories, the book includes personal reflections on memory, identity and belonging, and the ways family and national histories influence how people understand themselves.

Amundsen hopes the book will appeal not only to people interested in genealogy, but also to readers curious about New Zealand history and the stories that connect generations.

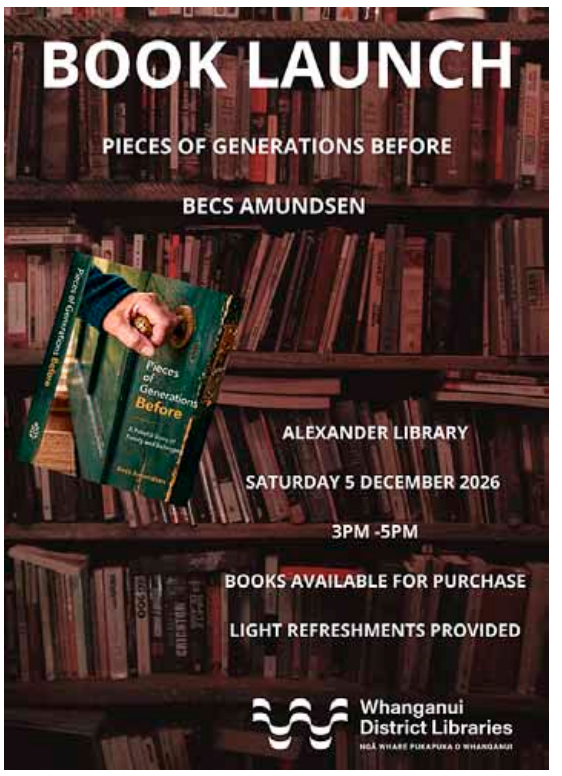
"Every family has stories that have been remembered, forgotten or perhaps never told. I hope the book encourages people to be curious about their own histories, but also to question what those stories tell us, and what might be missing."

Pieces of Generations Before will be launched on Saturday 5 December 2026 at 3pm at the Alexander Library – Te Rerenga Mai o Te Kāuru.

Pre-order the book ($40 each plus postage in required) at https://forms.cloud.microsoft/r/ANdcXRtbm7



Author and genealogist, Becs Amundsen.



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REVIEW: Storytellers - Legend Tour

Storytellers | Legend tour 2026
Reviewed by Robert Jaunay

The New Zealand String Quartet played in the Concert Chamber War Memorial Hall Whanganui on Friday 6 November. The whole concert was played flawlessly and enthusiastically, to make for a thoroughly engaging, moving and imaginative musical narrative.

First up, *The Internal Eclipse* (2026), in three movements, by Sara Arain (NZ), which premiered in Whanganui! Based on an ancient Persian tale, birds go searching beyond themselves, only to discover that what they sought was reflected within. Beginning with deep, sustained tones from cello and viola, the piece moves into gorgeous interplay between the four musicians. We flew, soaring high with the driving violins. We could hear Western melodies within an Arabic structure, with *ta-pu-ta, ta-pu-ta* rhythms, changes of pace and moments of quiet contemplation. What a treat!

Next was Beethoven's String Quartet No. 11 in F minor, Op. 95, *Serioso* (1810). The first movement brought changes of tempo; the second was so pared back that at times it was almost not there – ever so gentle and melodic. Breathtaking. This led us to Beethoven "champing at the bit" in the third movement, followed by the playful fourth movement, which evoked dancing and the joy of spring.

Post-interval, String Quartet No. 3 in G major, Op. 94 (1975) by Benjamin Britten was played. Based on musical themes from his opera *Death in Venice*, it was played in five movements: slow, fast, slow, fast, slow.

Britten freely used sliding notes, plucking and the like, with all the freedom of mark-making by an abstract painter. I believe that in the last three movements Britten wanted to give us everything he felt about music. The beautiful violin duo playing in the third (slow) movement merged into a "call of the sirens" from the four strings. "Strike up the band" came to mind in the fourth (fast) movement, which included plucking from the violins and viola and "drumming" from the cello. The fifth (slow) movement evoked "wind in a creaking door", breezes that rattled the leaves. The ending became urgent but finished quietly, as if to say, "I am done, I give you this, my music."

Lastly, New Zealander Claire Cowan composed *Sweet Suite: Hansel and Gretel Highlights for String Quartet* (2020), an adaptation in three parts from Cowan's own ballet *Hansel and Gretel*. We clearly heard tango, Charleston, foxtrot and Dixieland sounds, with richly textured dance tunes from a magnificent ensemble.

Rapturous applause from the 100-plus audience and a grateful, beaming quartet ended the concert on a high.



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Mark Brimblecombe is a professional photographer who has been based in Whanganui for the past 20 years. He is best known for his photos of the region and for his real estate photography. Mark is passionate about photography and being a photographer, but his real passion is people pictures: portraits, weddings and events. He makes real photos of real people. They are crafted using all the skills of a portrait photographer. They're not phone snaps or fake AI. It's Mark's belief that all photos are primarily experiential – the medium through which we experience something of the person photographed. It is an honour and privilege to meet people and make photos of them.

With the advent of digital media, the printed picture has sadly become less common. This is all the more tragic when in many cultures, and in our Māori culture, a photograph itself carries something of the spirit (wairua) and life force (mauri) of the person or people depicted.

Portrait photos make an ideal Christmas present and can be kept for generations to come. Now is the time to book in a professional photography session!

Mark has also taught courses on photography and is available for private tuition.

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Mark Brimblecombe, Photographer



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&

Christmas Market @ Majestic Square

12pm – 4pm

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Sold-out fashion show raises $8000 for Alzheimers Whanganui



Deb Guthrie, Karen Walker and Renee Clark.

All 100 tickets to A Night to Remember sold within four days, bringing together fashion, community and generosity for a special fundraising evening in support of Alzheimers Whanganui.

Held at Just Looking's Whanganui store earlier this month, the runway show featured pieces from the latest Karen Walker collection and other labels stocked by Just Looking. Special guest Karen Walker joined the evening, entertaining guests with a Q&A session. Guests also enjoyed goodie bags, giveaways and three auctions, which helped boost the fundraising total.

The idea came from Renee Clark, Manager of Alzheimers Whanganui, and Trelise Graham, Just Looking's Marketing Co-ordinator. They met with Just Looking owners Deb and Tony Guthrie, and together they brought the event to life.

A special acknowledgment goes to Deb and Tony Guthrie and the team at Just Looking, whose generosity and support helped make the evening such a success. Their willingness to champion Alzheimers Whanganui, rally their suppliers and bring the local community together demonstrates the important role local businesses can play in supporting causes that make a difference. Alzheimers Whanganui is incredibly grateful for their generosity and support.

Deb and Tony were also thrilled by the support shown by Just Looking's suppliers, whose generous donations contributed to the evenings success. The $8,000 raised will help Alzheimers Whanganui continue supporting local people living with dementia and their whānau.

Alzheimers Whanganui and Just Looking also extend a special thankyou to Karen Walker for being part of the evening, Nicky Rennie for MCing, everyone who purchased a ticket or placed a bid, and the local businesses who generously supported the event: Harrisons Hiremaster, Four Square Bulls, Whanganui PAK'nSAVE, H&A Print, Nixon & Co, Moomaa Cafe & Design Store, Mini Moments Photography and Dowman Contracting.

Tweaks to streamline Whanganui bus network introduced

Seven months following the launch of the redesigned Connect – Horizons Regional Transport urban bus network in Whanganui, further changes to streamline the network have been launched this week.

Horizons Regional Council manager transport services Mark Read says the tweaks follow positive uptake of the refreshed network so far.

"Since the new network for Whanganui was launched in April, patronage has increased significantly.

"The new network went live part way through April, and the first month of fares were free to get people used to the changes.

"If we ignore this free period and use the June to October 2025 reporting period, there were 72,366 trips on the network over this time. In comparison, there were 114,700 trips in that same four-month period in 2026 – this represents a 58.5% increase in patronage."

Mr Read says although the patronage data has been positive so far, there are still opportunities for improvement.

"The tweaks, which will be effective from today, are:

- Moving the start/end of the 201 Castlecliff–Whanganui East route at the Castlecliff end from 18 Karaka Street to 116 Karaka Street, enabling more seamless route changes and increase reliability for passengers boarding at these stops.
- Retaining the extra service currently operating on the 201 Castlecliff–Whanganui East route which enables students at Whanganui Intermediate School to get the bus to school on time.
- Moving the start/end of the 204 Pūtiki–St Johns Hill route at the St Johns Hill end from Montgomery Reserve to 88 Virginia Road, giving drivers access to toilet facilities, enabling more seamless route changes and increasing reliability for passengers.
- Adjusting a morning departure time on the 205 Whanganui East–Trafalgar Square bus heading to Trafalgar Square to depart at 7.20am, enabling workers to get into town before 8am.
- Fixed a timetable issue on Sunday which resulted in a long wait to transfer from the 202 to the 201 service."



"Using this feedback from customers and drivers, plus operational data, we identified several small adjustments which could be actioned quickly, and at no additional cost to the ratepayer," he says.

Mr Read says the bus timetable has been updated and is now available online, or in hardcopy format.

"You can find the digital timetable online now to view, download and print on the Connect website at www.goconnect.org.nz/media/rvmobqrs/whanganui-urban-and-commuter-timetable.pdf.

"Hardcopy timetables are available on-board buses, at the Horizons Regional Council office at 181 Guyton Street, and the Whanganui iSite."

Mr Read says Connect has also created a summer timetable for all services in the region, showing when they are and are not operating over the holiday period.

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Unmarked graves recognised with memorial and garden

Last Wednesday, the community gathered, huddled under umbrellas and wrapped in coats under unceasing rain, for the unveiling of a memorial to recognise people buried in 12 unmarked graves at the cemetery, people who had been let down by an institution that was supposed to support them: Lake Alice Hospital. The rain fitted the occasion – one of remembering and sadness.

After the 2024 Royal Commission of Inquiry into Abuse in Care *Whanaketia – Through pain and trauma, from darkness to light*, the government unreservedly apologised to an estimated 200,000+ survivors from across of range of institutions between 1950 and 1999. Lake Alice Hospital was one such institution.

One of the report's recommendations from the inquiry's final report was for the New Zealand Government to set up a fund for local authorities to care for unmarked graves.

For those individuals in the 12 unmarked graves the memorial and garden, located at the Aramoho cemetery is a small but significant gesture to honour their lives, and family members of those buried in the unmarked graves area were present to honour their memory.



A memorial bench and gardens unveiled at Aramoho Cemetery.

Mayor Andrew Tripe who spoke to the audience said, "Today is about remembrance, dignity and recognition.

"We are here to acknowledge people who can no longer speak for themselves, and to ensure that those buried here in unmarked graves are no longer left without recognition.

"For those connected to Lake Alice in any way, I acknowledge that this place and this occasion may carry particular significance. Certainly, it will carry lots of emotion.

"This memorial provides something tangible. A time and place to pause. A time and place to reflect. A time and place to remember."

Whanganui District Council staff, Fulton Hogan, government agencies, and others were acknowledged by the mayor for their contributions.

One person listening intently and watching on in the rain was Robyn. She and her brother were survivors of Lake Alice Hospital, having been placed there from foster care.

"When I heard about the people in the unmarked graves, I just feel very, very sad that these people have been left like this for so many years, no recognition. They were human beings. And to do this today is fantastic for them – to recognise them."

Robyn understands only too well what abandonment feels like; she and her brother, unable to be cared for by their mother, ended up in a system that failed to recognise their trauma and humanity. It was important to her to be at the cemetery to be part of the ceremony.

Local iwi presence offered karakia and waiata – the dignity of human voices rising into the rain in unison.

Renata Nikora, Te Atihau A Paparangi and Ngāti Raukawa, who had welcomed those gathred to the unveiling, interpreted the closing waiata for this RCP Community Reporter:

"Those of you who have passed and gone beyond, where are you now?

"Here we are, assembled here to pay tribute to you.

"We ask that your spirits look after us in the journey from henceforth."

Many of those gathered walked through the cemetery to lay a yellow rose at each unmarked grave – a symbol of remembrance.



Making Tracks

- Waterfalls are awesome



View this 23m high waterfall just below the Mangaturuturu Hut in Tongariro National Park.

By Scroggin

One of the charms of Tongariro National Park is its awesome waterfalls.Taranaki Falls, near Whakapapa Village, is a major attraction, but there are also a number of lesser-known, equally impressive waterfalls on the southern side of the park. Drive up the Turoa Mountain Rd from Ohakune, and you can visit the Waitonga Falls – at 39m the park's highest. Nearby, a short distance from the road, is the Mangawhero Falls, 28m high.

The Mangaturuturu Valley has its share of falls, too. A 30m waterfall is located above the Mangaturuturu Hut on the Mangaturuturu River and a 23m waterfall can be found a short distance below the hut. The walk to this hut takes you past impressive water drop-offs known as the Cascades.

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

4–6 Fri-Sun, Taumarunui weekend, leaders Cherry and Johnny

5 or 6, Sat or Sun, Zeke's Hut, leader Terry

12 or 13 Sat or Sun, Kapakapanui Track, leader Trish

12–13 Sat–Sun, Iron Gate Hut, leaders John and Brigitte

13–15 Sun–Tues, Maketawa Hut, leaders Terry and Dave

19 Sat, Moanaroa Beach, leader Dave

The midweekers have a full programme of interesting trips every Wednesday. Those who get out on Thursday are in two groups, with longer walks on 3, 17 and 31 December for the TT1 group and shorter ones for the TT2 group on 10 and 24 December.

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

The next club meeting on Tuesday 1 December at the Veandercross Lounge, Whanganui Racecourse, at 6pm will feature the club's Christmas BBQ followed by a Dutch auction with the proceeds going to the Grassroots and Taranaki rescue helicopter trusts. All welcome.

Whanganui Potters Studio's Art in the Garden this weekend

The garden gates will be open at 38 Pauls Road this weekend for Whanganui Potters Studio's Art in the Garden, the club's yearly celebration of ceramics and outdoor art.

Whanganui Potters Studio's members and invited exhibitors will transform the property's grounds into a relaxed outdoor marketplace. Stalls dotted through the garden will showcase a mix of handmade ceramics and outdoor pieces, with a few indoor works also on display.

The weekend doubles as the studio's biggest fundraiser. Club members volunteer to run every part of the event, and a modest commission on sales helps keep running costs down while funding activities and projects for local communities and schools. Whanganui Potters Studio is a registered charity and non-profit community organisation.

Hands-on making is a big part of the weekend. Anyone curious can try their hand at the pottery wheel or shape something from clay. Younger visitors are especially encouraged to join in – the studio has found that children take to the process with particular enthusiasm. Work created on the day can be fired if the maker wants to keep it. For those happier watching than making, club members will give live demonstrations of their techniques.

Raku firing will also be on offer for anyone keen to experience the dramatic Japanese process of smoke and sudden flame.

A special limited range called Lovely Cuppa – handmade cups and mugs produced by studio members – will be available at very modest prices, with every dollar of profit going straight back to the club.

Roots Brewing will be there on both days, providing a place to quench the thirst and socialise over one of their traditionally brewed beverages and more.

"Take your time to peruse the stalls of beautiful handmade art and pottery amongst the trees," says Anna Loftus, of the Art in the Garden subcommittee, "and kick back with a coffee, a cheeky ale or a crisp rosé to the sounds of live groovy beats, or get in touch with your creative side to make your own little clay masterpiece to take home."

Bands making an appearance over the two days to support the fundraiser are Richard Littlejohn, The Hot Potato Skiffle Band, Bandemonium, The Night Session and Dave Muso.

The weekend is rounded out with live music, face painting, sausages on the barbecue, home-baked cakes from the studio's accomplished bakers, and a raffle packed with worthwhile prizes.

Art in the Garden

28–29 Nov 2026, 10am–4pm, 38 Pauls Road, Whanganui. Free entry. Pets are not permitted.



Handmade art and pottery for sale at Art in the Garden this weekend.

Croquet Club results



Dick Mitchel presented the Val Mitchel Cup to Maureen Rankin.

Below: Colleen Slaughter presented the Colin Slaughter Memorial Cup to winner Ray Beaven.



Wanganui Croquet Club - Memorial Cups.
17th & 18th November 2026

These two club handicap competitions are traditionally run together: the Val Mitchel for lady members and the Colin Slaughter for the gents. Entries were down considerably this season with six ladies and eight gents entering. The format for each competition was one round robin of games with total wins deciding placings.

Unfortunately, the weather was not good either day, with persistent rain throughout. The players still managed some exciting games on the very wet lawns. The handicapping system levelled out the results, with several close seven to six results.

The lady's competition, set to be played entirely on the 17th, produced three ladies finishing with three wins after the round robin. Normally in this situation, the winner would be decided by who beat who in the round robin. As it turned out, each of the ladies had beaten one of the other two, so a play off round robin involving the three was played on the 18th. In really wet conditions, Rosemary Cleary and Karen Kitson played first with Karen Winning. Karen then played Maureen with Maureen winning. The final game saw Maureen beat Karen to win the trophy. The trophy was presented to Maureen by Dick Mitchel.

The Colin Slaughter competition involved seven rounds of games with five being played on the 17th and two on the 18th. The results after the first five games had one player on four wins and two on three wins. The results in the 6th & 7th rounds saw Ray Beaven and Tony Polkinghorne move to five wins each, with Ray being declared the winner, having beaten Tony in the rounds. The cup was presented to Ray by Colleen Slaughter.

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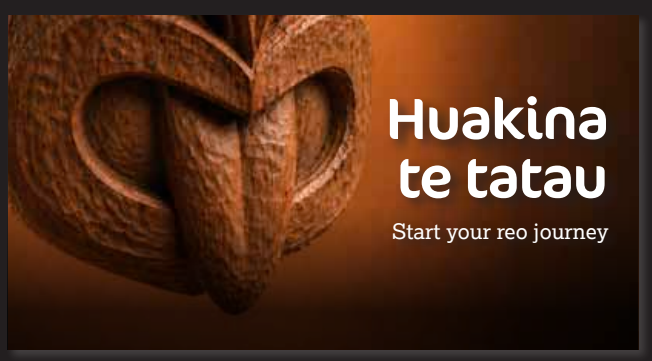

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Whanganui Male Choir to perform their 288th concert this Saturday



"Why Men Sing"

The Whanganui Male Choir, currently comprising 17 choristers, performed its first concert on 22 September 1998. The choir has never been in recess and, over the intervening 28 years, has performed at least twice a year (except in 2020, when Covid-19 restrictions affected performances), along with one or two additional concerts in between. It is now the third-oldest performing choir in New Zealand.

Jamie Hénare continues his Music Director role with the Choir, and again for this concert is supported by the very competent Philomena Gaines as Accompanist. For both it is their second concert with the Choir, bringing youth and vitality.

Over the years, the concerts have also showcased many talented artists, with emphasis placed on up-and-coming young people, some going on to earn international recognition. Two notable guest artists include Dame Sister Mary Leo in 1976 and a young Kiri Te Kanawa, who in 1965, received a fee of £15!

This year, the emphasis continues. Our two guest artists are currently riding high. Soprano Helena Burgstaller again won the Nita Oldham Cup for the most promising singer at the 2026 Sonja Wilson Memorial Scholarship Awards earlier this year. Her older sister Roseanna won the cup in 2024, thereby keeping it in the family for three consecutive years. Jacob Huang is a 16-year-old pianist who achieved first place at the 2026 Sonja Wilson Memorial Scholarship Awards. Two exciting young talents sure to bring impressive performances to the concert.

The concert promises to provide a varied repertoire of songs. Whanganui Male Choir will open the concert with three songs – 'Can't Falling In Love', 'If Ye Love Me' and 'Why We Sing'. Later songs will include a rousing sea shanty 'The Wellerman', audience favourites 'Bring Him Home' and 'On The Street Where You Live'. A further six songs will be performed by the Choir.

As usual, for the end of year concert, the afternoon will be rounded out with the audience joining the Choir with 'Silent Night', 'O Come All Ye Faithful' and 'Hark The Herald Angels Sing'.

Saturday 28 November, 2pm, Trinity Methodist Church, 183 Wicksteed St

Wanganui Male Choir (Inc)

Founded in 1898

Presents its

288th Concert

Why Men Sing

at the
Trinity Methodist Church
183 Wicksteed Street, Whanganui
on Saturday 28th November 2026 at 2.00pm

• • •

Musical Director: *Jamie Henare*

Accompanist: *Philomena Gaines*

Guest Artists

Sonja Wilson Memorial Scholarship Winners

Jacob Huang *(Piano)*

Helena Burgstaller *(Soprano)*

Door Sales: Adults $25, Seniors $20, Secondary & Primary Students free
Cash Sales Only

Move Your Butt for Bowel Cancer

Sign up at moveyourbutt.org.nz

Create your fundraising page and get set up early for the February start.

Bowel Cancer New Zealand

Sign up from 1 December for Move Your Butt for Bowel Cancer

Every month, about 100 New Zealanders die from bowel cancer – as many as from breast and prostate cancer combined. Yet, when caught early, more than 90 percent of cases are curable. That is the driving force behind Move Your Butt, Bowel Cancer New Zealand's annual February challenge that invites people to walk or run 100 kilometres in honour of those lives lost.

The virtual campaign is open to anyone: solo, with family or as a workplace team. Participants log their kilometres throughout the month while raising funds for free patient support services such as counselling, physiotherapy and practical assistance, as well as research into better detection and treatment. Previous challenges have seen thousands of Kiwis take part and collectively raise well over a million dollars.

For Whanganui residents, the challenge fits naturally with local outdoor spaces. The Whanganui River walkway, Kowhai Park paths, local reserves and coastal stretches offer easy routes to build up the distance, whether in daily walks or longer weekend efforts. Getting moving also supports overall gut health, adding a personal benefit alongside the fundraising.

The campaign's wider message is awareness and early action. Free home bowel screening kits are currently available every two years to eligible people aged 58–74 through the National Bowel Screening Programme (with the starting age expected to drop further in 2027). Whanganui has previously recorded strong participation rates, and the Whanganui Regional Health Network continues to support people who need help with kits or transport. Anyone with symptoms such as blood in the stool, persistent changes in bowel habits, unexplained weight loss or ongoing abdominal pain should see their GP promptly, bowel cancer can affect people of any age, and rates in younger adults are rising.

Bowel Cancer New Zealand receives no government funding for its patient services and research, so community efforts like Move Your Butt make a direct difference. Signing up is free at moveyourbutt.org.nz, where people can create a fundraising page, join the Facebook group for tips and encouragement, and start logging kilometres.

In a community that already looks after its own, a few extra steps this summer could help ensure fewer Whanganui families face bowel cancer alone.

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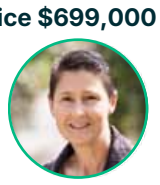

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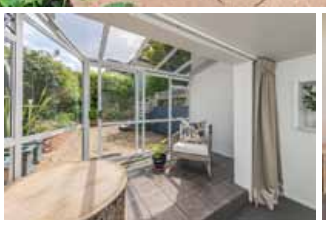



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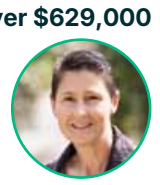

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2021 NISSAN NAVARA

2.3L, turbo diesel, 7 speed auto, 2WD, double cab, colour-matched canopy, towbar and so much more!



was $32,995 NOW $31,995

2013 FORD RANGER XLT

3.2L T/D, manual, 2WD, canopy, body kit, 20" alloys, towbar, loaded with extras, great looker!



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National art exhibition brings artists from across NZ to Whanganui



A national art competition and exhibition featuring 46 finalist artworks from across New Zealand is now open at Art by the River in Whanganui.

New Tides 2026, the gallery's inaugural national art competition, attracted 273 entries from artists across ten regions of the country. The finalists were selected by judges Anna Korver, Julie Whyman and Paul Hooker.

The exhibition brings together a wide variety of contemporary New Zealand art, including painting, sculpture, photography, ceramics and mixed media. The selected artists range from emerging talents to those with more established practices, offering visitors an opportunity to explore a diverse collection of work in one setting.

Gallery owner Richard Browes says the response to the first competition has been very encouraging, with interest from artists throughout New Zealand and three finalist artworks sold before the exhibition officially opened on Saturday 21 November.

Visitors are also invited to help decide the Audience Award by voting for their favourite artwork during their visit to the gallery.

Those voting can also choose to enter a draw to win a $500 Art by the River voucher, which can be used towards the purchase of an artwork from the gallery. Voting is in person only, and visitors can enter the draw when completing their voting slip.

Admission to *New Tides* is free, although visitors are welcome to make a voluntary koha donation. All visitor koha received during the exhibition will support the work of City Mission Whanganui.

The exhibition concludes on Sunday 13 December, with a closing celebration and awards presentation at 4pm. Everyone is welcome to attend, when the winners of the $2,500 Art by the River Award and $1,000 Audience Award will be announced, along with the winner of the $500 gallery voucher draw. Audience Award voting closes at 3pm that afternoon.

New Tides 2026 runs until 13 December at Art by the River Gallery, 1B Bell Street, Whanganui.

Admission is free.

Further information and finalist artworks can be viewed at www.newtides.co.nz.

NEW TIDES
NATIONAL ART COMPETITION & EXHIBITION
NOW OPEN
46 FINALIST ARTWORKS
from across New Zealand
VOTE & ENTER THE DRAW TO WIN
A $500 GALLERY VOUCHER
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Terms and conditions apply
21 NOVEMBER - 13 DECEMBER
FREE ADMISSION
CLOSING CELEBRATION & AWARDS
Sunday 13 December, 4pm
Everyone welcome
ART BY THE RIVER
1B Bell Street, Whanganui
newtides.co.nz

WORLD SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT DAY 2026 | NOV 26

Sustainable transport ideas

Whanganui's compact layout and growing infrastructure make sustainable travel increasingly practical for everyday trips. Most residents live within a few kilometres of the city centre, supporting walking, cycling and improved public transport as realistic alternatives to private cars.

The redesigned urban bus network, launched in April 2026, has simplified services and lifted patronage. Two high-frequency Te Ngaru | The Tide routes now run every 20 minutes, supported by three hourly routes that operate seven days a week. Coverage has expanded to areas such as Pūtiki, while more frequent services pass near schools. Horizons Regional Council reports strong growth in passenger numbers since the changes, showing that more reliable, frequent buses encourage people to leave the car at home.

Cycling and shared pathways form another key part of the network. Routes such as Te Tuaiwi (the spine) and the City to North Mole shared pathway provide off-road links between the city centre, suburbs and Castlecliff. These connect with the Mountains to Sea trail and local cycle lanes, offering safer options for commuting, school travel and recreation. Whanganui District Council continues to expand shared pathways and add cycle facilities as part of its roading programme. E-bikes further extend the range of practical trips on the relatively flat terrain.

Walking remains straightforward in the central city and along riverfront paths, while electric-vehicle charging points support lower-emission car use for longer journeys. Together, these options reduce congestion, cut emissions and support healthier travel habits.

For many Whanganui residents, sustainable transport is already within easy reach – whether that means catching a frequent bus, riding a shared pathway or walking a short distance. Continued investment in frequency, pathways and safe infrastructure will strengthen these choices further.

As petrol prices soar, Pooly asks Kiwis to share the cost of the drive home



Vincent and Ben are making it easy to fill empty seats and save on fuel costs.

At $3.41 a litre, putting 50 litres of petrol in the car costs just over $170. With the summer holidays approaching, Kiwi carpooling platform Pooly is asking drivers around New Zealand to offer a spare seat to someone heading the same way.

For one driver travelling from Tākaka to Christchurch, a single booking put about $85 towards his petrol. For his passenger, it made the trip possible. She needed to get to Christchurch and had no other way there.

Māpua's Vincent Revell and Motueka's Ben Walch started building Pooly in April this year, when the fuel crisis prompted a conversation about the cost of getting around New Zealand. They first trialled it on the road over Tākaka Hill between Golden Bay and Motueka.

"Ben got in touch when fuel prices shot up. We got talking about how much it costs to drive between towns and how often you do that whole trip with three empty seats," says Vincent. "In a place like Golden Bay, you can have someone wondering how they'll afford the petrol to get to Christchurch and someone else wondering how they'll get there at all. It makes sense to introduce them."

The national average advertised price for regular 91 was $3.41 a litre in the week ending 15 November, according to the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment. Drivers on Pooly can put some money back towards that bill by listing a journey they already plan to make and setting a price per seat. Passengers can see the price upfront, check the driver's profile and book online. Drivers verify their identity before posting a trip. "It's a seamless booking process," says Ben. "All ride offers are organised in a schedule, so it's a similar booking experience to conventional transport options like an intercity bus."

Vincent says summer is a good time to give carpooling a go. "If you already know where you're driving over the Summer, put the trip up now. And if you know when you're coming back, post that too. For someone deciding whether they can get home to see family, the ride back can matter just as much."

Drivers can offer a spare seat and passengers can search for a trip at www.pooly.nz.

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Public invited to Children of the Sky film and kapa haka evening

Whanganui residents are invited to attend the opening for the Children of the Sky Summit with an evening of film, kapa haka and conversation at Whanganui War Memorial Hall on Monday, 30 November, from 5.30pm to 8.30pm.

The public celebration will feature a screening of *Te Tangi a te Kūaka (The Cry of the Kūaka)*, a panel discussion, a public reception, and a performance by Cullinane College's kapa haka group. Some of Children of the Sky's international visitors will speak.

The hosts include members of the Whanganui Kūaka Collective, working alongside the Native Village of Paimiut, a Yup'ik Tribe in Alaska. Their partnership follows the journeys of the kūaka, or bar-tailed godwit, and the



cultural connections between the communities that care for these birds.

The celebration comes as the Whanganui Kūaka Collective prepares to receive the New Zealand Geographical Society's Award for Collaborative Research Involving Geographers in Palmerston North in early December.

The Collective combines art, storytelling and science to strengthen local understanding of kūaka and their protection. Its collaborators include artist Cecelia Kumeroa, storyteller Tania Te Huna and researcher Dr Billy van Uitregt. Through this work, Whanganui's relationship with the birds has become part of a wider conversation with Indigenous communities along their migration routes.

Children of the Sky was founded by Estelle Thomson, President of the Native Village of Paimiut Traditional Council. Collaborators from more than 20 countries include Indigenous rangers, conservation organisations, Tribal, local and national governments, and biodiversity funding networks.

Children of the Sky connects communities along some of the world's most prolific migratory bird flyways. The ancestral lands of the Native Village of Paimiut lie in Alaska's Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta, a birthplace for migratory birds that travel the world.

The Delta provides vital staging grounds for Alaska-breeding bar-tailed godwits, known in Aotearoa as kūaka. Here they gather and build their reserves before launching into a nonstop trans-Pacific odyssey to Aotearoa and eastern Australia. At the heart of Children of the Sky is the recognition of migratory birds as relatives, with enduring cultural and spiritual connections to Indigenous Peoples.

"The relationships we have are woven into our DNA," Thomson says.

The 30 November 30 celebration is an opportunity for local residents to meet the hosts and learn about Children of the Sky. The public Summit follows in Wellington on 3–5 December. For more information, visit www.childrenofthesky.org.

Volunteers needed urgently

Urgent Job Vacancies – Volunteer Whanganui

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

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

Free New Year's Day community meal planned

To Be Kai Unity, except for statutory holidays, provides a year-round shared meal every Thursday at Harrison St Community Church Hall – it's more than a hearty main meal and dessert; it's about company and connection too. Next year the regular Thursday slot will be moved for one day only to a free New Year's Day community meal and food share on 1 January, 12pm-2pm.

Linda Braygunn, founder of To Be Kai Unity, which she started about 19 months ago, believes New Year's Day is an important time to gather, acknowledge the year past, and look forward to the year ahead.

A crew of 12 volunteers who support the To Be Kai Unity programme is in place for the New Year's Day get-together. They'll be preparing a feast of cold cuts, salads and summer desserts for the occasion.

Tickets are expected to be available from around 3 December; the event's capacity is capped at 50 attendees for venue and safety reasons. Pop along to one of the Thursday lunches to confirm your free ticket to the New Year celebratory lunch.

There will also be a food share at the event.

Linda makes the philosophy of To Be Kai Unity clear: "I think the most important thing with To Be Kai Unity is that we're there to support the community. It doesn't matter



who they are, if they're working or not, there's always an open door for anyone in the community – just walk through that door between 11am and 12 noon and have a meal."

Since To Be Kai Unity's inception, other events have been added to the calendar, including monthly breakfasts and a meal at Te Puna Wai Ora Community Church at 10 Liverpool Street every Saturday from 4pm to 5pm.

Linda would like to give a shout-out to Whanganui Kai Hub, Savages Bakery, Te Puna Wai Ora, Harrison Street Church, and Unity at Christ Church for the food donations that allow To Be Kai Unity to provide nourishing meals for the community.

The organisation operates on food donations only; however, next year they will be organising fundraising events to purchase items not available through food gifts. If you are keen to support or sponsor this important initiative through food donations, especially for their New Year's Day event, Linda at To Be Kai Unity would be extremely grateful. You can contact Linda Braygunn on 022 1865 620 or email lindabraygunn@gmail.com.

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By Kip Chapman with Todd Emerson & Sophie Roberts
By arrangement with Playmarket

Rewi Alley 'Peace Room' developed

Friday 13th may be seen by some as an unlucky day, but for the members of the trustees of Peace Through Unity Charitable Trust (PTU) and the NZ-China Friendship Society Whanganui Branch Committee, it was deemed a very auspicious day.

Readers may know of the peace work by Anthony and Gita Brooke through the United Nations after their diplomatic careers, and the generous bequest of their Durie Hill home "Te Rangi" for peace and community development purposes in Whanganui and wider NZ.

Other readers may be aware of the "bridge building" role of the NZ-China Friendship Society (NZCFS) since it was founded in 1952.

It became clear to NZCFS that they needed somewhere to house the archive material collected by branches over the years. Being conscious of the historical Whanganui link with Rewi Alley, who set out from here in 1926 on his epic 60 years' work in China, the Branch put its hand up to be custodians of this archive.

Branch President Jonathan Parson, and the local



Simon Zhang, George Matthews, Jock Lee, Jonathan Parson, Jan McLeod, Sue O'Leary, Matt Nowak. George, Jock and Sue of PTU.

branch and friends initially met the cost of storage. Now the branch members and volunteers have the challenging task of sorting through the many boxes of papers, photos and memories of Kiwi "Friends of China".

Inspired by the creation of the very successful "Rewi Alley Memorial Museum" in Christchurch last year, our branch saw the need for a "Peace Centre" in the name of Rewi Alley in Whanganui, and set about finding the right space.

After hunting for such a "home", the PTU trustees very kindly offered a room within Te Rangi House to hold the Archive. It is called The Rewi Alley Peace Room. Also housed in the room is a fine collection of reference books on China and Rewi Alley's work in China over 60 years … and space for archivists, researchers and students.

On Friday 13 November, the two groups signed a Memorandum of Agreement making the "Rewi Alley Peace Room" a legal working entity and resource for everyone who cares about peace in our world.

Contact: PTU via their website peacethroughunity.org.nz, or the NZCFS branch, whanganui@nzcfs.com, or phone Jan 027 929 9636.

HARDY CONSTRUCTION LTD.
Building Hardy Homes

2026 Master Builders Awards

The Mantles has won Third Place at the 2026 Master Builders House of the Year Awards in the Bunnings New Home $1million - $1.5million category.

One of the home's most distinctive features is its impressive rooftop landscape, complete with natural stone detailing and sculpture. Beautifully illuminated at night, it creates a striking visual statement that can be admired from the Durie Hill Lookout, making **The Mantles** a standout landmark on the Whanganui hillside.

As a proud multiple award-winning building company, Hardy Construction is honoured to have brought this exceptional project to life and is excited to have won this award at the Master Builders House of the Year Awards.

Our team is confident that we can continue to produce more outstanding work like **The Mantles** in our future builds.





We would also like to thank our wonderful contractors!

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- Thompson Plumbing and Gas
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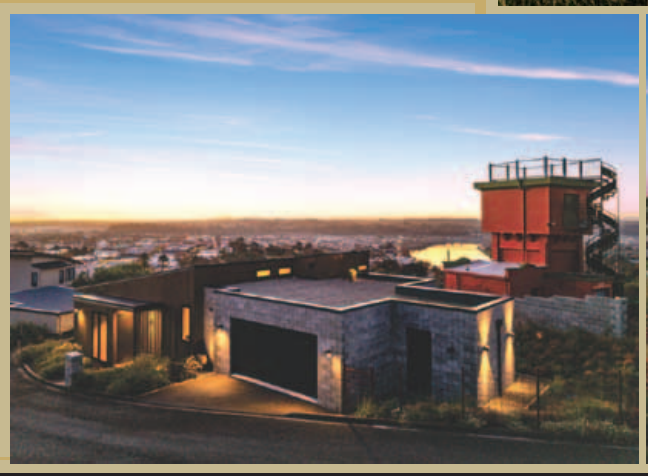



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Durie Hill home claims third place in th Year national awards in the $

The Mantles on Durie Hill – built by Hardy Construction – keeps delivering. Owner Graham Stoop's dream home, designed by Dalgleish Architects, has already taken Regional Master Builders gold, Regional Category winner: $1 million – $1.5 million, and a special award; on Saturday night, it claimed third place at the 2026 Master Builders House of the Year National Awards in the Bunnings New Home $1 million–$1.5 million category.

"There are some pretty spectacular houses being built around New Zealand at the moment – there's a lot of talent in this country with builders and building companies. And to compete with that is massive, not only regionally, but nationally," says Sam Hardy, who co-owns Hardy Construction with wife Stacey.

The office walls at the Hardy Construction showroom on Wilson Street are littered with awards from 2023 onwards, when Sam first started entering homes in the Master Builders Awards. In 2023, the company entered two projects (a villa renovation and a new home under $500,000), both of which won regional gold and category awards, with one also making the national Top 100. They have continued to win gold with high-quality projects in subsequent years.



Photo by Julius Rodil, www.houseoftheyear.co.nz

The team is still enjoying the buzz from their most recent accolade. In the Bunnings New Home $1 million–$1.5 million category, The Mantles competed against other premium custom new homes in that price range – typically sophisticated, architect-designed builds with high-end finishes, often on challenging sites.

Sam says he wants to see more Whanganui Master Builders succeed at the Master Builders House of the Year as well.

"I'm the current local Master Builders Association president, stepping out of that role in April. I really put a lot of time and effort in the last four or five years into making other builders around Whanganui realise how good it is for their business and how proud they should be of the work that they're doing.

"Put it out there and take that plunge.

"The House of the Year is a fantastic competition that gives builders that incentive.

"I've said it a lot of times before – Whanganui is full of really good master builders."

The pair agree the Award Nights process is nerve-wracking, but so worth it. Sam says, "Once it's done, it's so good, then you can relax, and the tie comes off."

Sam and Stacey were joined on the night by the owner of The Mantles and his sister, who also owns an award-winning home. They enjoyed each other's company, and Sam and Stacey were grateful the pair made the effort to be there.

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he 2026 Master Builders House of the $1million-$1.5million category

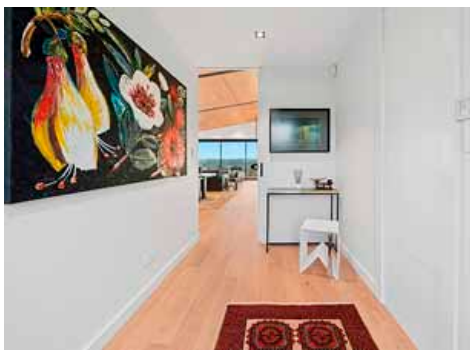
Thanks to the contractors for their work on this award winning home

"It was wonderful to be in Auckland with Sam and Stacey as we celebrated Hardy Construction's latest success. And as well as resulting in a deserved accolade for a Whanganui building company, the evening was also a celebration of what good architecture and construction can bring to human wellbeing and to the enhancement of the built environment. It was a truly amazing evening," says Graham.

The wins for Hardy Construction have cemented their place as a top building company, not just regionally but nationally.

Whether entering the Master Builders Awards House of the Year or not, the quality of build that has seen them succeed at Award Nights continues, because excellence is the standard of craft from the young apprentices to the very top. It's a team that performs, with the client at the heart of their purpose.

As Stacey says, "Aaron and Brent, our construction supervisors, and our foreman, Ralph – they all have the same high standards, you know? They look at their work as really important to themselves, and they strive to do the best for the customer. And they won't settle for anything less, and I love that."







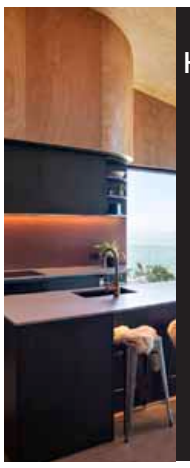
Photos from www.houseoftheyear.co.nz

The same is true for the network of relationships Hardy Construction has with its subcontractors, who understand they're working to a high standard because they're building a legacy.

"It's about driving past that same house and actually being proud of what you've created," says Stacey.

To view more images of Hardy Construction's nationally recognised home, visit https://houseoftheyear.co.nz/houses/2026/mw-45749-6-7/. The property entry is named The Cascade Effect.

Huge range of Construction & Architectural Plywood & Panels available right here in Whanganui!



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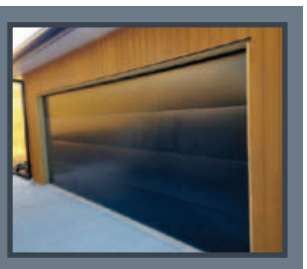
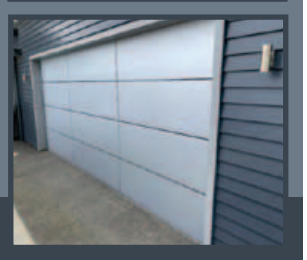
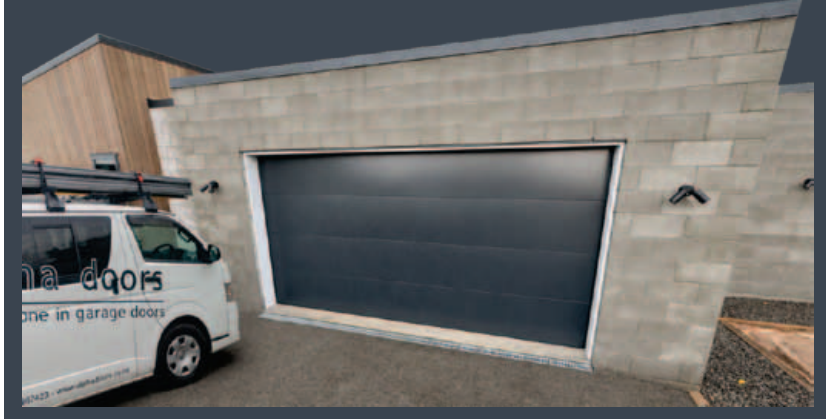






Congratulations to Hardy Construction on The Cascade Effect New Build.
Alpha Doors is proud to have supplied the garage door for this award-winning home.



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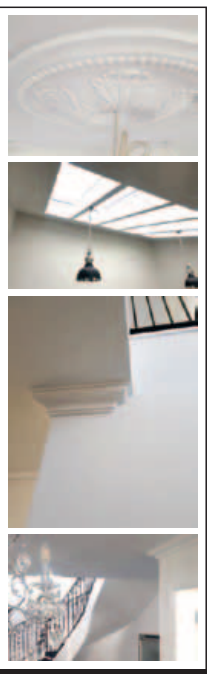

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Discount Mart keeps growing by listening to its customers



Jahanvi and Vikas outside Discount Mart at 193 Victoria Ave (opp. Dimocks)

Discount Mart is adding more products and putting a big emphasis on looking after its customers, say owners Vikas and Jahanvi Chavda.

Vikas had only been running a store for two years in Levin. With no retail background and both coming from hospitality careers, the pair discovered they enjoyed the retail sector and loved serving the community. Nine months ago, they decided to take the opportunity in Whanganui, purchasing the Q Variety Store and renaming it Discount Mart.

The Whanganui store is doing exceptionally well, despite being less than a year old.

Customer service is front and centre.

Everything comes after customer service, says Vikas, "If you look after that, then you don't have to worry about anything. The business takes care of itself."

The team listen to what people actually need and what they're hoping to pay. If someone leaves without finding what they came in for, staff ask what they were looking for, and the team pull out all the stops to find the item and call the customer when it is on the shelves.

Discount Mart has its own membership system too, guaranteeing more savings for customers, with savings of up to 12%.

The store has added nearly 500 products, with a wider range now in pet supplies, party goods, plastic products, and arts and crafts. Party consumables have been especially popular, and that range has grown by nearly 90 percent. In a city with a thirst for all things arts and crafts, Vikas makes sure art products are well stocked, including large canvases available from 10cm × 10cm up to 120cm × 120cm.

Vikas and the team enjoy connecting with the community and getting to know their customers. Finding fun ways to connect is important to them, and with Christmas around the corner, there is a special photo booth set up at the entrance to the shop.

"Take a photo at the photo booth, make it a funny one, and post on Facebook, tagging us – Discount Mart – in, and we decide one winner every week, and we give them some vouchers," says Vikas.

The Discount Mart shelves are also well stocked with seasonal goodies, decorations, party supplies and gift ideas to help people get ready for the festive season, without breaking the bank. There's everything from Christmas trees and costumes to tinsel, tree toppers, and Santa sacks.

Discount Mart, 193 Victoria Avenue (opposite 100% Home Dimocks)

Open seven days, 9am–5.30pm.

SHOPPING ON A Shoestring THIS Christmas

Make your Christmas shopping dollars go further this year

Whanganui's cluster of charity shops and low-cost retailers makes it practical to stretch a household budget, especially over the Christmas period. Clothing, household goods and occasional furniture can be found without leaving the district, and purchases from charity shops support local causes.

Charity shops form the core of thrifty shopping here. Regular options include the SPCA Op Shop and St Vinnies on Victoria Avenue, the Salvation Army Family Store, several Hospice shops (including the Whanganui East branch), Hato Hone St John, Zest for Mission, Redress, The Life Shop and Orphans Aid. Clothing is usually plentiful, and many shops keep low-price or $1 racks near the entrance where branded items in good condition turn up regularly. Mid-week visits often catch fresher stock.



For larger items, second-hand furniture outlets and some of the bigger charity shops regularly offer solid wood pieces, whiteware and household goods at well below new prices.

Generic bargain stores also play a role. These low-cost retailers stock new everyday clothing, homeware, basic tools and seasonal items at accessible prices. Checking specials, end-of-line shelves and multi-buy offers can deliver further savings on everyday needs.

Practical habits help stretch money further: bring your own bags, visit several charity shops in one outing, and both buy and donate so stock keeps turning over. Whanganui's charity shops and generic bargain outlets make shoestring shopping realistic while keeping spending close to home.

THE LIFE SHOP
to value and protect human life
209 Victoria Avenue, Whanganui
The
"Go to Place"
for
second hand clothing, household goods and information on life issues.
Monday to Friday
10am to 2.30pm
Ph 027 314 7266

All quality goods gratefully accepted.



Please phone or bring donations into the store.
Zest FOR MISSION
CITYMISSION WHANGANUI
Empowering people, encountering life.
163 Victoria Avenue, Whanganui
Phone 345 2139 (extn 2)

ReDress
Season's Greetings!
Remember Redress for your holiday fashions!
PARTY DRESSES & CASUAL WEAR
Reuse, Reduce, Recycle, ReDress.
Tuesday-Friday, 10.30am - 3.30pm
Saturday, 10.30am - 2.30pm
61 Ridgway St. Ph 022 012 7032

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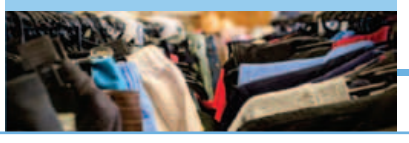
PRESENTS
ALICE



Step into a magical world of wonder, colour and imagination! Join the students of Shirley McDouall School of Dance for a fun-filled, vibrant and exciting journey down the rabbit hole in their enchanting production of Alice.
Saturday 5th & Sunday 6th December
3pm at the Royal Whanganui Opera House
Tickets available now from www.whanganuivenues.co.nz
Or at the Royal Whanganui Opera House Box Office.

Te Kahu Pairuri ki Whanganui
hospice whanganui
Whether you're donating goods or if you are on the hunt for great bargains or a hidden treasure...
YOU ARE ALWAYS WELCOME AT OUR HOSPICE SHOPS



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171 VICTORIA AVE
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DISCOUNT MART



HOW TO ENTER

- Snap a festive photo in our photo booth
- Post to FB & tag us
- Tag & use #DiscountMartChristmas
- Follow us on FB for a bonus entry
- Find the photo booth outside the store
- Winner announced every week

COMPETITION RUNS UNTIL 24TH DECEMBER 2026

Be Our Next Christmas Winner!

PRODUCTS

- Arts & Crafts
- Stationery
- Health & Beauty
- Homeware
- Garden & Tools
- Party Decorations
- Party Dress Up
- Pet Toys & Accessories
- Sewing Accessories & Wool
- Fishing
- Kiwiana
- Wide Range of: Plastic Containers
- Artificial Flowers

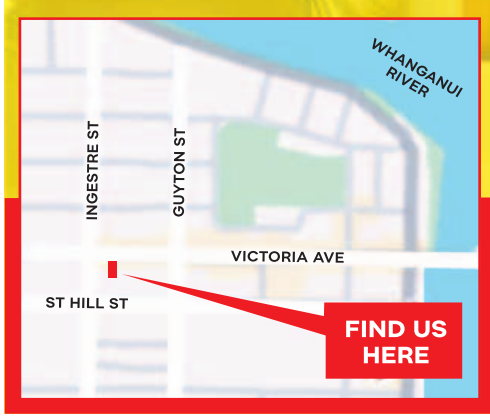
CHRISTMAS PRODUCTS

- Tinsel
- Ribbons
- Hanging Decorations
- Lights & Candles
- Table Decorations
- Trees
- Toys
- Gift Bags & Boxes
- Bubbles
- Inflatables
- and many more!

Bring this advert in for 10% OFF Once per person only.



Read our story on page 18!



193 VICTORIA AVE, WHANGANUI

06 345 8058 - 7 DAYS, 9am-5.30pm

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2026 Yorb Whanganui Business Awards results

On Saturday night at Te Whare o Rehua Sarjeant Gallery, we celebrated the businesses and community organisations doing good things for Whanganui with the 2026 Yorb Whanganui Business Awards.

Congratulations to Bayleys Whanganui, Supreme Award winner, and to Annette Main, recipient of the Judith Timpany Award for Service to Business and Community.

More than 2500 votes were cast for the People's Choice Award, with Property Brokers Whanganui taking out the award.

To our winners, soak up the success. You deserve it!

2026 Yorb Whanganui Business Awards Results

Emerging Business (1–5 years)
Best in Category: Airbnb Whanganui
Gold: Law Corner Marton and Trident Homes Whanganui
Silver: Grounded Company

Customer Experience
Best in Category: Duke's Dog Daycare
Gold: Love & Learn Care and Education, Te Whare o Rehua Sarjeant Gallery and Cactus Crème Café
Silver: Property Brokers Whanganui and Landlords Link

Innovation & Transformation
Gold: The Whanganui Distilling Company Papaiti Gin and Whatever Whanganui

Built Environment
Gold: Trident Homes Whanganui

Community Impact
Best in Category: Property Brokers Whanganui
Gold: Grounded Company
Highly Commended: Cura Advisers

Employer of the Year
Employer of the Year: Bayleys Whanganui
Employer Gold: Love & Learn Care and Education

Visitor Economy
Gold: Airbnb Whanganui
Silver: Te Whare o Rehua Sarjeant Gallery

Growth & Resilience
Best in Category: Whatever Whanganui
Gold: Cactus Crème Café and Trident Homes Whanganui

Professional & Consumer Services
Best in Category: Bayleys Whanganui
Gold: Love & Learn Care and Education
Silver: Property Brokers Whanganui
Highly Commended: Outsourced Personnel

People's Choice
Property Brokers Whanganui

Judith Timpany Award for Service to Business and Community
Annette Main ONZM

Supreme
Bayleys Whanganui

What the award tiers meant

Each award reflected the standard an entry reached against its category criteria. More than one entry could earn Silver or Gold.

- Highly Commended recognises strong work that deserves special mention.
- Silver recognises a high standard of achievement.
- Gold recognises outstanding achievement.
- Best in Category is awarded where a Gold-standard entry stands out.
- Supreme celebrates the entrant whose overall performance sets them apart.

From bonsai to business

On Saturday, we shared why we chose bonsai as our finalist gift. Growing a bonsai and growing a business both take time, care and patience. You need strong roots, the right environment and, every now and then, a little pruning to make room for healthy growth.

We chose a kahikatea for the Supreme Award. When kahikatea grow together, their roots intertwine and help the trees withstand wind and flooding. It's a reminder that we grow stronger together.

It takes a community to support and grow a business, and it takes a super award-winning community to bring the business awards together. Saturday night was the culmination of months of work. Thank you to everyone who helped make the whole awards season happen.

- Helen Garner,
Chief Executive (CEO),
Business Whanganui Chamber of Commerce



Supreme Award Winner – Bayleys Whanganui



All photos by Alanah Brown Photography

What an awesome night at the Yorb Whanganui Business Awards!

These awards are a reflection of our incredible team, who genuinely care about our clients and our community.

We couldn't be prouder!

A huge thank you to everyone who supports us, and congratulations to all the winners and finalists!











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GOLD AWARD
Customer Experience

GOLD AWARD
Growth & Resilience



Thank you to the Whanganui Community from the bottom of our hearts for your support!

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Ph 06 348 0560
2 hours Free parking available in the Farmers complex

Love & Learn Celebrates Three Gold Awards at Whanganui Business Awards

What an incredible night for Love & Learn Childcare, taking home three Gold Awards at the Whanganui Business Awards in **Customer Experience, Professional and Consumer Services, and Employer of the Year.**

For owners Marie and Brendon Butturini, the evening was a special opportunity to reflect on the journey of the past 11 years and celebrate the incredible people who have helped make Love & Learn what it is today.

“When we started Love & Learn nearly 11 years ago, we never imagined where this journey would take us. What began as a vision to create something special for tamariki and whānau has grown into something so much bigger than we could ever have dreamed.

“These awards aren't just about us. They belong to our incredible team, who turn up every day with passion, dedication and genuine love for our tamariki, whānau and community.

“We are so grateful to everyone who has been part of our journey, from our amazing staff and families to our mentors, supporters and wider community. Having so many of these special people alongside us on the night made the celebration even more meaningful.

“Our vision has always been simple: **Community raising community.** These awards are a beautiful reminder of what can happen when people believe in each other, work together and share a common vision.

“We feel incredibly humbled, honoured and thankful to receive these three Gold Awards. More than anything, we are proud of the people who have made this possible.”



Marie and Brendon extend their heartfelt thanks to the Whanganui Business Awards organisers, sponsors and judges, and to everyone who continues to support Love & Learn. We also would like to acknowledge the businesses won the other prizes and all of the business that made and effort to put themselves out there. It was very humbling to be apart of.

“These awards may have our name on them, but they belong to our whole Love & Learn community.”



LEARNING • INTEGRITY • FELLOWSHIP • EXCELLENCE

WHANGANUI HIGH SCHOOL

www.whanganuihigh.school.nz

PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER FOR NOVEMBER 2026

IMPORTANT DATES

FRIDAY 4 DECEMBER

Junior Prizegiving
11:00am in the Hall

Years 9 & 10 finish &
reports emailed home

Celebrating Success

Kia ora koutou

Congratulations to all our senior students and thank you for your commitment and dedication throughout 2026.
All the very best for your NCEA and Scholarship examination results.
Have a great summer break!

Ngā mihi nui
Martin McAllen
PRINCIPAL WHANGANUI HIGH SCHOOL



JAMES MCGREGOR



MONIQUE SMITH

PRINCIPAL'S ACADEMIC AWARDS YEAR 11

Olivia Campbell	Carter Hallett	Bruce McGregor
Mackenzie Carter	Ian Kim	Narii Simpson
Demi Fu	Heinrich Kramer	Mehar Sinha
Mahalla	Michael Lister	
Hague-Davis	Charlie McBride	

EVA BROWN CUP FOR BEST ALL ROUND PUPIL YEAR 11

Bruce McGregor

PRINCIPAL'S ACADEMIC AWARDS YEAR 12

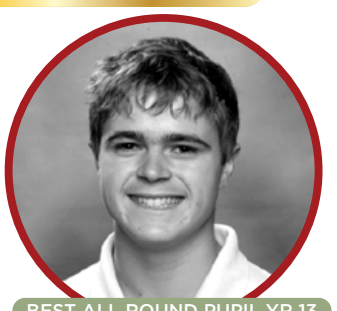
Abraham Beer	Lily Kowhai Henshaw	Alex Nesbit
Conor Brodie	Ava Higgins	Sam Penwarden
Carrie Bullmore	Sophia Jansa	Ella Simpson
Francesca Cotter	Caitlin Lambert	Micah Taunton
Leith Dorricott	Caleb Loader	
Grace Eastabrook	Owen Murphy	

BEST ALL ROUND PUPIL YEAR 12

Dulcie-Jean Paikea


BEST ALL ROUND PUPIL YR 11
BRUCE MCGREGOR


BEST ALL ROUND PUPIL YR 12
DULCIE-JEAN PAIKEA

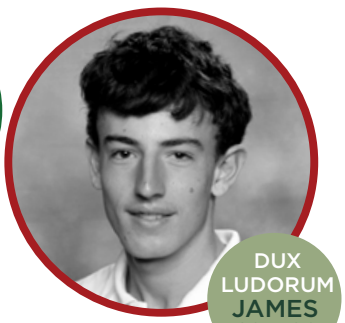

BEST ALL ROUND PUPIL YR 13
XAVIER BOOTH

ELITE SPORTS AWARDS

Isabelle Key	Charlotte Dickinson Cup for Service to Sport
Elicia Thompson	Bradley Martin Memorial Sportsmanship Trophy
Morgan Wood	Sloan & Kauika Trophy for Outstanding Leadership in Sport
Isla Jones & Elicia Thompson	Mr Smellie's Cup for Girls' Sport – Dux Ludorum
James McGregor	Mrs Robinson's Cup for Boys' Sport – Dux Ludorum
Boys' U17 Coxed Quad Rowing	The WHS Cup for Team of the Year
Paige Conley	WHS Principal's Cup for the Most Outstanding Sporting Performance


WHS PRINCIPAL'S CUP FOR THE MOST OUTSTANDING SPORTING PERFORMANCE
PAIGE CONLEY


DUX LUDORUM
ISLA JONES &
ELICIA THOMPSON


DUX LUDORUM
JAMES
MCGREGOR

ELITE CULTURAL AWARDS

Piper Nixon-Gaisford	WHS Cup for Outstanding Contribution to the Cultural Life of the School
Lucy Hartley	WHS Cup for Outstanding Leadership in the Cultural Life of the School
Lucy Morgan	WHS Brown Family Cup for Co-Curricular Involvement in the Cultural Life of the School
Lucy Hartley	Dux Artium – Female
Mitchell Cosford	Dux Artium – Male
'Ngā Hau E Whā'	Principal's Cup for Excellence in the Arts


PRINCIPAL'S CUP FOR EXCELLENCE IN THE ARTS
NGĀ HAU E WHĀ


DUX ARTIUM
LUCY HARTLEY


DUX ARTIUM
MITCHELL COSFORD

ELITE MĀORI AWARDS

Te Atakura Potaka-Osborne Milner-Skudder	Alison Gernhoefer Taonga for Contribution to Māoritanga
Teri-Ellen Karipa	Māori Dux
Andrea King	Marewa Kiterangi Taonga for Māori Leadership - Wāhine
Violet Ranginui-Mansell	Marewa Kiterangi Taonga for Māori Leadership - Wāhine


MAREWA KITERANGI TAONGA FOR MĀORI LEADERSHIP
VIOLET RANGINUI-MANSELL & ANDREA KING


ALISON GERHOEFER TROPHY MOST OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION TO MĀORITANGA
TE ATAKURA POTAKA-OSBORNE MILNER-SKUDDER


MĀORI DUX
TERI-ELLEN KARIPA

ELITE PASIFIKA AWARDS

Anniebella Muao	WHS Cup for Outstanding Contribution to Pasifika
Mia Latonio	Vaiao Bowl for Pasifika Spirit
Te Atakura Potaka-Osborne Milner-Skudder	Pasifika Bowl for Academic Excellence
Gachen Feng	Seunu'u Mau Leleimalefaga Memorial Trophy – Male Leadership Pasifika

WHANGANUI HIGH SCHOOL CHAMPION HOUSE

MAUNGA (House Leaders – Lydia Wing Chi Lam and Mitchell Cosford)

SCHOLARSHIPS YEAR 13

Karis Librado	Murray Nelson Potts Memorial Scholarship
Alice McCartie	Alan Skilton Memorial Scholarship

SPECIAL AWARDS YEAR 13

William Hird	The Gray Payne Trophy for Service to the School
Lydia Wing Chi Lam	The Lions International Award for Outstanding Service to the School
Te Mahaki Taukiri	PTA Cup for Significant Academic Effort
Xavier Booth	WHS Cup for All Round Excellence in Year 13


WHS CUP FOR OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION TO PASIFIKA
ANNIEBELLA MUAO


PASIFIKA BOWL FOR ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE
TE ATAKURA POTAKA-OSBORNE MILNER-SKUDDER


SEUNU'U MAU LELEIMALEFAGA MEMORIAL TROPHY
MALE LEADERSHIP PASIFIKA
GACHEN FENG

TERTIARY STUDY AWARDS

Tyson Barclay	William Hird	Lucas Munn
Xavier Booth	Phavy Jones	Beth Terrey
Eric Craig	Teri-Ellen Karipa	
Inigo Donson	Mana Marryatt	

PROXIME ACCESSIT

James McGregor

DUX OF THE SCHOOL

Monique Smith

HOUSE CHAMPIONS 2026!!



MAUNGA HOUSE LEADERS
MITCHELL COSFORD & LYDIA LAM

CONGRATULATIONS MAUNGA HOUSE

WHANGANUI HIGHSCHOOL

www.whanganuihigh.school.nz

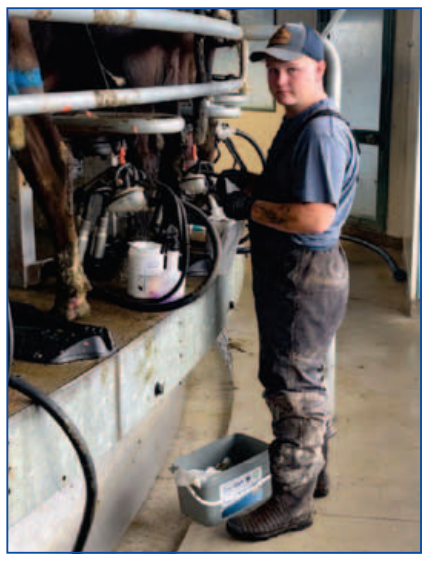
GATEWAY

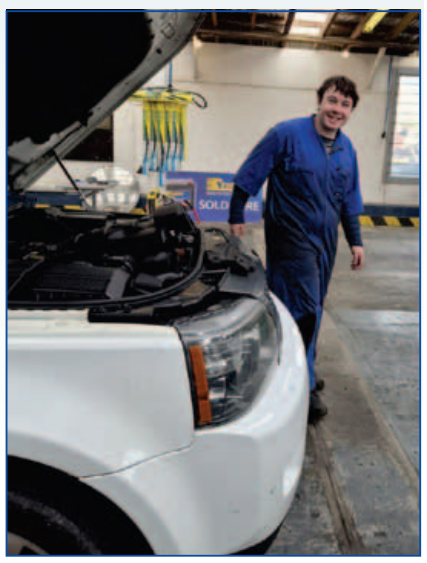
Whanganui High School's Vocational Studies Department wishes to thank the following Whanganui employers for providing workplace learning opportunities and work experience for our senior students during 2026.

- Garmac Engineering
- Mama Bear Childcare
- JC Autos
- Kuzman Electrical
- Midtown Motors
- Whanganui Renovation Company
- Pulse Performance Race Engineering
- Marahau 1905
- Boyd Electrical
- Love & Learn Care and Education Centre
- Funhouse learning Centre
- Mobile Mechanical Solutions
- Campbell Auto Repairs
- Browns Brothers Bikes
- H & C Reid Partnership
- Bruggy Farms
- CRV Equipment
- Smart Start Care & Education Centre
- Truebuild Construction
- Guthries Auto Care
- Ignition Motors Group
- Trac Mac
- Recycle the Label
- AP Plumbing & Gasfitting
- Tidy Styles
- Windsor Developments
- Salvation Army Family Store
- Roberts Auto Shop
- Vets on Carlton
- Emmetts Civil Construction
- MGB Logging
- Upstaged Home Staging
- Holland Automotive
- Rob Mancer Electrical
- RT Heat Pumps & Electrical
- Restorations Unlimited
- Laser Electrical
- G.O.M.E
- Barsanti Kindergarten
- DSM Services
- AMT Auto Electrical
- Elite Mechanical & Engineering Services
- Crosse Construction
- Piping Hot Plumbing & Drainage
- Total Automotive
- Kooter Motorsport
- MTS Projects
- Dorgan Construction
- Performance Boat Builders
- Boss Electrical
- Renew Electrical
- Y Kids Early Learning Centre
- GDM
- Fairfield Farm
- Q-West Boat Builders
- PV Composites
- Mastercraft Kitchens
- Fitzies Bakery
- Conley Electrical
- Elite Industrial Engineering
- Beauty by Grace
- AES Whanganui











Purnell St, Whanganui • Phone 06 349 0178

WHAT'S ON IN THE COMMUNITY

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

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

Rest home residents' arts and crafts exhibition

St John's Hill Lifecare on Virginia Road is currently holding its second arts and crafts exhibition, featuring a range of works created by residents, residents' families and centre staff. It's a way to celebrate the talents they share and the unique abilities they've developed over the years. It also celebrates November Art Month.

The exhibition encourages connection and conversation, while showcasing residents' skills and personal histories.

Activity coordinators Erin and Lisa are responsible for curating the exhibition, and Erin says, "Residents, families and staff could all participate; it brings up discussions.

"And it's great for them to be able to talk about what they've made."

Residents, families and staff have contributed paintings, quilts, needlework, bear making, colouring in and all manner of crafts, including landscape paintings by Thomas McNeight, who exhibited at Whanganui Community Arts Centre in 2019.

This year's exhibition is on display in the chapel, which reopened after being cleared of earthquake risk.

The exhibition is open until 29 November, 10am–3pm. St John's Hill Lifecare, 2 Virginia Road, Whanganui



Thomas McNeight's artwork on display

'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.

Friends Of Castlecliff Coast Care
Monday, 7th December at 9.30am. Meet at 97 Cornfoot St, Castlecliff. The last working bee for the year. We will be weeding the plants in our nursery. A nice easy task to wind the year down. Bring a pair of gardening gloves. Morning tea and chat once we are finished.

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

Jigsaw Exchange
This month's exchange is the last this year. It is this Saturday 28th November at the Central Baptist Church Hall on Wicksteed Street from 9.30am until 11am. We return again Saturday 30th January. Hundreds of puzzles to choose from. Donations appreciated. Contact Bill 027-912-5835.

Repair Cafe Whanganui
Saturday 28 November. Harrison St Community Church Hall, opposite 64 Liverpool St, 11am to 12.30pm. Metal, wooden & hard plastic items; leather goods; clothing & book repairs; soft toys; costume jewellery; ceramics; small electrical goods; knife/tool sharpening. Homemade baking & repairs for cash donation. Children welcome. Ph 021-08900-798. Email whanganuirepaircafe@gmail.com

Rivercity Pickleball
Still wondering what this pickleball is all about? You are welcome to come have a look. Our usual club sessions at Jubilee Stadium are Sunday 4pm–6pm, Wednesday 9am–11am, Thursday 6pm–8pm. To have a go – beginners must register 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.

Whanganui Male Choir
Concert this Saturday 28th November at 2pm in Trinity Methodist Church, titled "Why Men Sing". Songs like 'Can't Help Falling in Love' and 'On the Street Where You Live' to help you remember. Guests are Jacob Huang on piano and Helena Burgstaller, Soprano. All welcome. Adults $25, Students free. Cash or online banking only.

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

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

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

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- Sticky date pudding
- Rhubarb & apple pie
- Self saucing chocolate pudding
- Lemon sponge
- Cheesecake

These desserts are available every week.

WEEK COMMENCING		WEEK COMMENCING		WEEK COMMENCING		WEEK COMMENCING	
2nd November	25th January	9th November	1st February	16th November	8th February	23rd November	15th February
30th November	22nd February	7th December	1st March	14th December	8th March	21st December	15th March
28th December	22nd March	4th January	29th March	11th January	5th April	18th January	12th April
1. Honey Soy Chicken & Rice		1. BBQ Pulled Pork		1. Salisbury Steak & Onion Gravy		1. Baked Fish & Lemon Cream Sauce	
2. Pork & Apple Curry		2. Creamy Chicken & Bacon Pasta		2. Macaroni Cheese		2. Roast Lamb & Gravy	
3. Battered Fish & Tartare Sauce		3. Roast Chicken & Gravy		3. Honey Baked Chicken		3. Crumbed Chicken & Herb Gravy	
4. Roast Beef & Gravy		4. Smoked Fish Pie		4. Crumbed Fish & Tartare Sauce		4. Beef Lasagne	
5. Glazed Meatloaf & Onion Gravy		5. Corned Beef & Mustard Sauce		5. Roast Pork & Gravy		5. Pickled Pork & Apple Sauce	
6. Ham, Corn & Spinach Frittata		6. Bacon-wrapped Sausages		6. Savoury Mince		6. Beef Stew	

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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



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SPECIALISED SERVICES

Whanganui's fully licenced immigration advisor

After 47 years in teaching, including roles as Head of Commerce and Computing in New Zealand and Fiji, Vijeshwar Prasad made a career change more than 14 years ago, becoming an immigration and tax consultant.

It was not a complete pivot – in his involvement with the Multi-Cultural Council of Rangitikei/Whanganui, he often gave free advice to people around the subject of immigration. Then the law changed, and to give such advice a person needed to be certificated.

Vijeshwar explains, "So I took up Level 7 studies in immigration, and in 2013 I formed a company – River City Immigration and Tax Consultant – because I was an accounting teacher and I thought I should maintain that as a Tax Agent."

Immigration law is complex and requires a keen eye for detail, empathy, and a commitment to ongoing learning. Vijeshwar says, "Every year, we are required to complete 20 hours of professional development; if you don't do that, they won't renew your licence.

Vijeshwar' s expertise covers a range of immigration categories: Accredited Employer, skilled migrants, student visas, work visas, family categories, investors and long-term business visas – and that's not the complete list.

He prefers to work with one client at a time to understand their needs best and see the job through to its completion. He's a sole operator but connects with a range of other advisors throughout the country who rely on each other for support and advice.

"It's a job that can be very challenging, especially when a difficult case comes in and you have to do an appeal, which requires a great deal of research looking back at other cases. But when I get a positive outcome, that gives me great satisfaction", says Vijeshwar.

There has been an increase in immigration in recent times, and one of the areas that Vijeshwar sees as critical is immigrants' ability to understand English and for employers to understand the laws and obligations around employing immigrants. Following obligations and getting the right advice can save a lot of money, headaches and heartache in the long run.

Vijeshwar is there to help people change their future.



Vijeshwar Prasad outside his office at 137 Anzac Parade.

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SPECIALISED SERVICES

MacBlack Timber and Joinery offers wood of a difference

MacBlack Timber and Joinery at 44 Peat Street offers woods of a difference. They are all locally grown and include hardwoods, Macrocarpa Redwood, Poplar, Elm and Sycamore. Owner Jake Tessler says, "we do not sell MDF, plywood, Radiata or tanalised timber. We leave those products to others."

All the different woods MacBlack does sell have interesting grains and a range of colours. As Jake says, "they are beautiful."

The company uses these woods to build barn doors and benchtops, either from selected designs or from designs chosen by customers. As half his staff are joiners, this work makes up 50% of the business.

The timbers can also be used for flooring or panelling, where they also stand out. They also produce 12mm overlap timber pieces, which can be laid over a concrete floor. Imagine a beautiful elm floor.

All the timbers are kept under cover, carefully identified and graded. Jake's office has the full range of samples. As he sells by the metre, you can buy small as you need it. The friendly staff know their timbers and are keen to advise.

The timbers are also sought out by wood turners and carvers. "These timbers are cool stuff," says Jake, "and if you appreciate good design, they are for you."

MacBlack Timber and Joinery is open 8.30 to 5, Monday to Friday and by appointment on weekends. You can contact Jake on 020 462 2255 or at sales@macblack.co.nz



From left: Andrew Morton, Jake Tessler and Chris Connolly.

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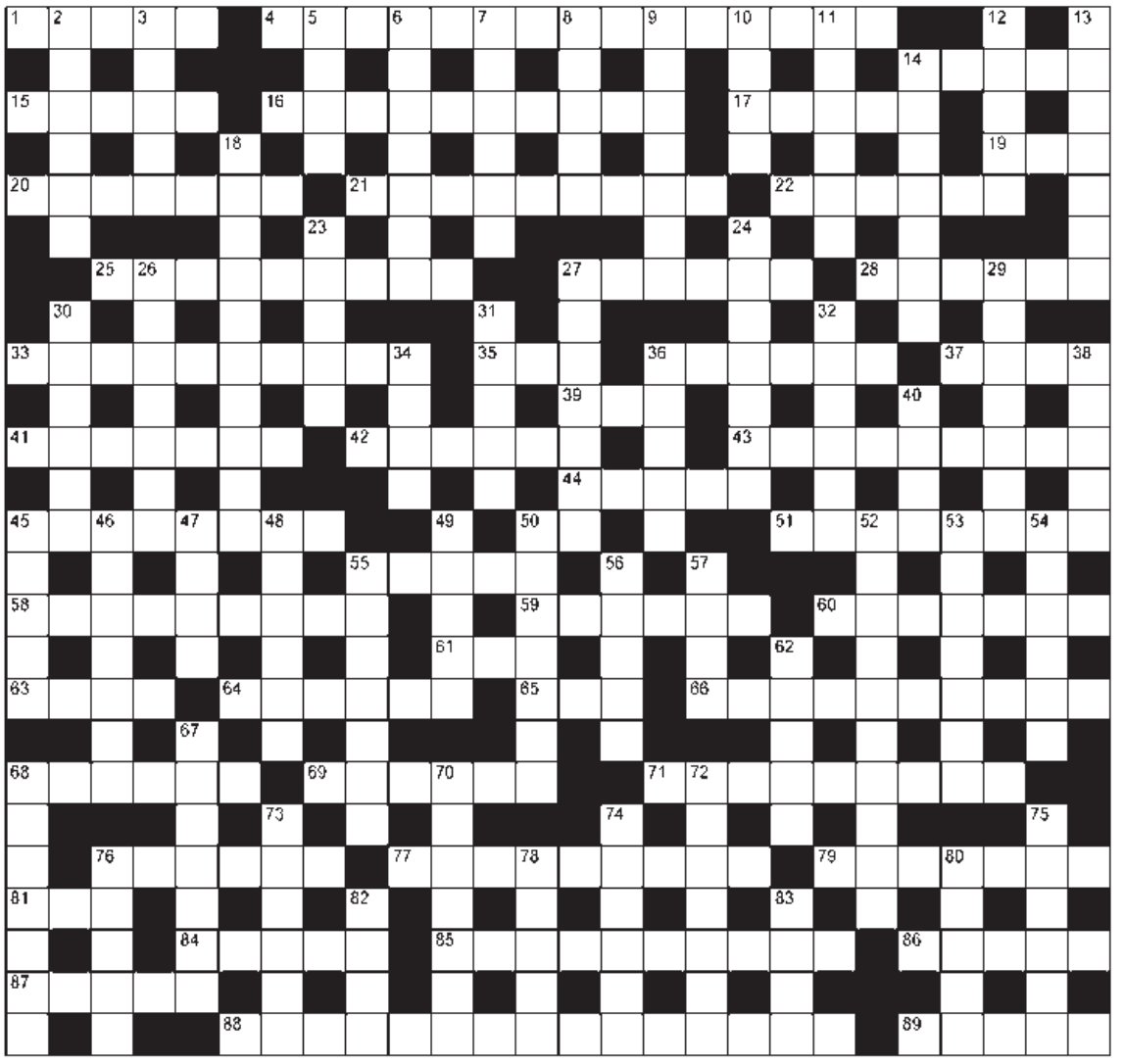
Jumbo crossword

ACROSS
1 Wound crusts (5)
4 Seafood outlet (4-3-4,4)
14 Counterfeit (5)
15 Wood pattern (5)
16 Payment (10)
17 Witty (5)
19 Finish (3)
20 Bison (7)
21 Screamed shrilly (9)
22 Showed to be true (6)
25 Self-appointed law enforcer (9)
27 Subsided (6)
28 Swallowed (6)
33 Trial judge (10)
35 Tree (3)
36 Overexert (6)
37 Wet river crossing (4)
39 Employment (3)
41 Provide the money for (7)
42 Improved (6)
43 Most quick (9)
44 Skilled (5)
45 Cabbage salad (8)
50 Greek letter (2)
51 Whiptailed sea creature (8)
55 Highland musician (5)
58 Runniness (9)
59 Eye cover (6)
60 Unkempt (7)
61 Unwell (3)
63 Surprise attack (4)
64 Bring to mind (6)
65 Vase (3)
66 Branched candlesticks (10)
68 Bargain (6)
69 Ring (6)
71 Car lamp (9)
76 Vows (6)
77 Pay for in advance to receive regularly (9)
79 Spectacles (7)
81 Friend (3)
84 Foreign (5)
85 Unable to read or write (10)
86 Repairs (5)
87 Book (5)
88 Supersonic (6,4,5)
89 Intermix (5)

DOWN
2 Travelling show (6)
3 Fleeting (5)
5 Conception (4)
6 Tresses trim (7)
7 Spice (6)
8 Scoffer (5)
9 Floating mass (7)
10 Foam (4)
11 Smells (6)
12 Avarice (5)
13 Interfered (7)
14 Taste (7)
18 Oval (10)
23 Deadly (5)
24 Most beloved (7)
26 Mimic (7)
27 Japanese warrior (7)
29 Trailblazer (7)
30 Gambling establishment (6)
31 Broad river mouth (5)
32 Halve (6)
34 Balanced (4)
36 Waste drain (5)
38 Simple song (5)
40 Biblical garden (4)
45 Insurance (5)
46 Durable (7)
47 Decelerate (4)
48 Crops up (6)
49 Month (5)
50 Introductory music (7)
52 Beyond belief (10)
53 Hungarian dish (7)
54 Spare the price of (6)
55 Egyptian construction (7)
56 Rider's straps (5)
57 Metal (4)
62 Slyly disparaging (5)
67 Criminal (7)
68 Served food portion (7)
70 Special messenger (7)
72 Trade ban (7)
73 Russian horse-drawn vehicle (6)
74 Greek sea god (6)
75 Dull and heavy (6)
76 Bonded servant (5)
78 Slender graceful girl (5)
80 Bombard (5)
82 Hair tangle (4)
83 Shock (4)



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SIMON SHUKER'S CODE-CRACKER Extra 935

EACH number in our Code-Cracker grid represents a different letter of the alphabet. For example, today 21 represents C, so fill in C every time the figure 21 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	6	7	■	4	8	9	9	1
5	■	10	■	■	■	9	■	5	■	11	■	10
12	10	13	13	■	14	15	14	16	6	2	5	17
14	■	18	■	10	■	14	■	19	■	13	■	10
13	9	2	16	3	11	8	9	9	20	■	■	6
■	■	10	■	17	■	13	■	■	■	5	■	10
4	14	14	11	14	3	■	5	21	5	21	10	5
2	■	6	■	■	■	■	13	■	5	■	6	■
22	■	■	13	10	23	16	5	17	17	10	16	23
22	■	24	■	16	■	5	■	17	■	15	■	2
10	16	14	25	11	14	8	6	■	20	5	17	17
16	■	8	■	2	■	14	■	■	■	6	■	17
23	8	14	14	6	■	3	8	5	11	14	8	26

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

© Simon Shuker www.codecracker.co.nz

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

Sudoku

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

MEDIUM

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

Previous solution

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

Previous solution

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

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

Previous crossword solution

ACROSS: 1 Solving, 4 Slanderous, 9 Cavalry, 13 Itch, 14 Depart, 15 Summit, 16 Content, 19 Linguistic, 20 Ravenous, 21 Equal, 24 Credit, 25 Traced, 27 Warmonger, 32 Mistaken, 33 Stuffy, 34 Tension, 38 Gauntlet, 39 Ground, 40 Beam, 41 Quill, 42 Steed, 45 Fall on deaf ears, 52 Lamps, 55 Brain, 56 Smog, 57 Rested, 58 Trifling, 61 Twisted, 62 Scroll, 63 Collapse, 66 Endurable, 68 Ruling, 69 Averts, 73 Knave, 74 Withheld, 76 Mechanical, 81 Diploma, 82 Cinema, 83 Sailor, 84 Want, 85 Staying, 86 Licentious, 87 Diverse.
DOWN: 1 Still, 2 Licensee, 3 Grease, 4 Swami, 5 Asti, 6 Desired, 7 Remove, 8 Union, 10 Ahoy, 11 Antique, 12 Runway, 17 Humiliated, 18 Dummy, 22 Scenario, 23 Onset, 24 Changes, 26 Rake, 28 Affable, 29 Itself, 30 Tundra, 31 Dollop, 33 Sound, 35 Sauna, 36 Tune, 37 Fair, 43 Thrown, 44 Evils, 46 Army, 47 Logical, 48 Narrow, 49 Easel, 50 Fiercely, 51 Stream, 52 Lifesaving, 53 Main, 54 Signals, 59 Debut, 60 Flan, 64 Basic, 65 Armchair, 67 Novelty, 68 Radiant, 70 Enlist, 71 Delete, 72 Shroud, 75 Haiti, 77 Exits, 78 Lithe, 79 Omen, 80 Oslo.

5x5

P		T		O
	L		N	
R		W		R
	H		R	
S		L		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

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

SITUATIONS VACANT

Learning Assistant/ Student Support

Whanganui Intermediate School are seeking an experienced Learning Assistant to join our team. The successful candidate will be providing individualised support, helping engage students positively and successfully in school life.

This role would suit someone who is consistent and relational in their approach, with a genuine ability to build positive relationships with young people. We are looking for someone who can remain calm under pressure, who has the ability to think on their feet and who will be a steady, predictable support that helps students feel safe, connected and supported in our busy kura.

The ideal applicant will:

- Have previous experience working in a school setting or in a similar role supporting young people.
- Have excellent relationship-building skills and a genuine interest in working with intermediate aged children.
- Be calm and able to maintain their own emotional regulation when navigating challenging situations.
- Have strong communication skills, be able to work collaboratively and have the ability to adapt as needed to a busy school environment.
- Be willing to learn and implement the agreed support strategies.
- Be highly reliable, recognising the importance of consistency and continuity for the students they support.

Previous experience supporting students with emotional regulation needs would be an advantage. However, we are equally interested in applicants who bring the right personal qualities and have a genuine willingness to learn.

This is a rewarding opportunity to make a meaningful difference in a young person's school experience. Guidance and support will be provided as part of the role.

Hours: Monday-Friday, 8.30 - 3pm
Start date: January 28th, 2027
Applications close: Friday 4th December 2026

To apply, please email your CV and a Covering Letter to Kathie Ellery, Principal:
elleryk@wi.school.nz

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Thank you!

Bridge Club results

Whanganui Bridge Club results, week ending 20 November

Monday Christmas Pairs: N/S 1. L Rowland M Brewer 63.37 2. R Bartrum J Kay 57.20 3. I Kelly J Holt 54.89 **E/W** 1. S Brotherston H Jarrett 58.30 2. P McDonald K Moore 56.92 3. C Harding J Zhang 53.59

Tuesday Ladder: N/S 1. V Baillie J Zhang 63.39 2. R & D Nightingale 55.95 3. P MacLachlan G Handley 53.87 **E/W** 1. Pam & Perry Loader 68.15 2. A Dean W Pedley 53.57 3. N Kennedy C Raisin 50.00

Wednesday Senior Ptnr Junior: N/S 1. J Bourne A Bennett 62.35 2. R Bowie G Mooney 59.41 3. K Croot D Nightingale 57.06 4. K Rainey M Wyley 53.07 5. D Edmonds M Brewer 52.87 **E/W** 1. B Franklin-Browne F Simpson 61.15 2. B Webster J Zhang 59.30 3. R Terrey M Dawson 58.98 4. S Kuehne R Smith 53.83 5. J Hagen A Thirtle 52.30

Wednesday Social: N/S 1. A Thirtle G MacLachlan 62.92 2. N Kennedy R Sigley 56.25 3. C Harding A Bennett 51.67 **E/W** 1. C van Mesdag-McGregor N Gale 60.42 2. B Bull A Sutherland 55.42 3. J Hore V Kay 50.00

Friday Social: N/S 1. S Fonseka J Holt 59.58 2. A Thirtle A Bennett 59.32 3. W Duncan J Rapson 59.25 4. D Haynes P Paterson 59.04 5. B Franklin-Browne J Wagstaff 53.45 6. P MacLachlan J Smith 53.29 **E/W** 1. S Watson S Dempsey 59.92 2. M Dawson J Zhang 56.29 3. C van Mesdag-McGregor N Gale 55.85 4. S Cvitanovich J Richardson 54.33 5. A Dean

Bible Friends Christmas play on Tuesday

Why are two perfectly respectable people flung into prison? (Spoiler alert: It's something to do with Lord Hate-Good and his town of Vanity Fair.) What has this got to do with the dangerous and difficult journey they are on? Where are they going, and what will happen when they get there?

To discover the answers to these questions, come and find out. Bible Friends is a Christian group for people with an intellectual disability, and every year we love to entertain our families, friends, caregivers and members of the public with a joy-filled evening, which includes a Christmas play. Supper will follow.

This is a free event, but we do give you the opportunity to give a koha towards the group's expenses for camp at El Rancho in Waikanae in February.

Tuesday, 1 December at 7pm, at Christ Church Anglican, 243 Wicksteed Street.



Recent Bereavements

Sadly passed away recently...

Evan Bruce DEIGHTON
on 17 November 2026, aged 83 years.

Robert John DEMPSEY
on 19 November 2026, aged 86 years.

Shaun Graham (Grumpy) FORLONG
on 23 November 2026, aged 86 years.

Shirley Jeanette HEDGMAN
on 22 November 2026, aged 88 years.

Nellie Eileen HONE
on 20 November 2026, aged 90 years.

Robert Bernard (Bob) HOW
on 23 November 2026, aged 76 years.

Elaine Myra LITTLE
on 13 November 2026, aged 89 years.

Suzanne Margaret (Susie) MATTHEWS
on 18 November 2026, aged 92 years.

Angus Martin Heremaia (Gus) MURRAY
on 16 November 2026, aged 58 years.

Terri Margaret POWELL
on 18 November 2026.

Julie ROSE
on 19 November 2026, aged 82 years.

Glenyss Irene SHARPE
on 20 November 2026, aged 84 years

Alan Brian SMITH
on 18 November 2026, aged 70 years.

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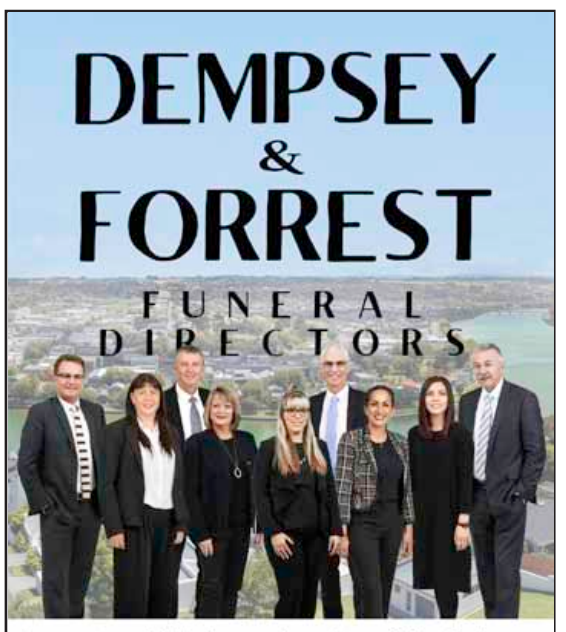

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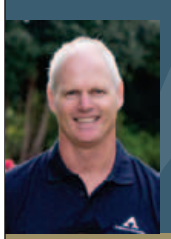

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Take projects from initial ideas and feasibility through to scoping, budgeting, consents, contractor engagement and completion. Help shape the future of Pīwaiwaka Farm.

Applications close Sunday 6th December.

Full role details:
https://linktr.ee/learningenvironmentnz

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1 STOP POP UP SHOP every Sunday 11am–3pm. Homewares, decor, furniture, women's clothing, shoes, xmas decorations. 49 Fitzherbert Ave, Springvale.

BLINDS - Roller & Venetians to order.20% off retail price. Free measure and quote. Strath Davis Furniture & Flooring, Ph (06) 345-0883.

NEW season's Red Kaka beak, Kanuka, Manuka, various Corokia including Frosted Chocolate, Sunsplash, Cotoneaster, Virgata, Geenty's Green. Buxus hedging all priced at only 6 dollars each. A good range of large grade Native trees, Planter bag, 12, great price, 18 dollars. Parnells Quality Tree and Shrub Nursery, 102 Fox Road, Wanganui. Phone (06) 344-6645. Established 1895 and still going strong!

NEW books available at River City Press, 52 Ingestre St. "Whimsical Tales of Old Wanganui"; "More Whimsical Tales of Old Wanganui". All proceeds go to Alzheimers Whanganui.

HYDROPONIC UNIT, suitable for home glasshouse, everything included. Offers – phone 027-271-4650.

ENGINEERING SALE Lath Opti Turn TU 2506V hardly used. German make. Price $1250. Hydraulic and Pneumatic 30 Ton Press hardly used. Metal Master make. Price $700. Text 022-610-7990.

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*Conditions apply



TRADES AND SERVICES













PUBLIC NOTICES

SECTION 101 SALE AND SUPPLY OF ALCOHOL ACT 2012

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

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

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

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

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

No objection to the issue of a license may be made in relation to a matter other than a matter specified in section 105(1) of the Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012.

This is the first publication of this notice.

SECTION 101 SALE AND SUPPLY OF ALCOHOL ACT 2012

Sunlaw Investments Limited, 2 Bell Street, Whanganui has made an application to the District Licensing Committee at Whanganui for a renewal of an On Licence in respect to the premises situated at 2 Bell Street, Whanganui and known as **the Commercial Hotel**.

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

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

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

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

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

This is the first publication of this notice.

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

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TE KAUNIHERA Ā-ROHE O Whanganui DISTRICT COUNCIL

Amendment to Intended Road Closures

Whanganui Vintage Weekend Events 2027 Mainstreet Caboodle

An amendment is required to the advertisement published on Thursday, 5 November 2026. A portion of Victoria Avenue was omitted from the original advertisement.

The updated roads for the intended closures are:

Saturday, 23 January 2027
7.00am to midnight 12.00am

- Victoria Avenue from Ingestre Street to Taupo Quay (previously stated from Guyton Street to Taupo Quay)
- Ridgway Street from St Hill Street to Drews Avenue
- Maria Place from St Hill Street to Victoria Avenue
- Guyton Street from St Hill Street to Victoria Avenue

Doug Tate
Chief Executive

whanganui.govt.nz

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Recent RCP competition results

Congratulations to Mrs Ineke Gregory, winner of RCP's double pass to *Convergence – Te Pūtahitanga* at the War Memorial Centre on Friday 20 November.

Congratulations also to Melanie McKenna, the lucky winner of an RCP copy of Rob Rattenbury's new book, *Dante Road: A History of the New Zealand Police Dog Section*.

BUSINESS FOR SALE



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

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

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



RIVER CITY PRESS LTD

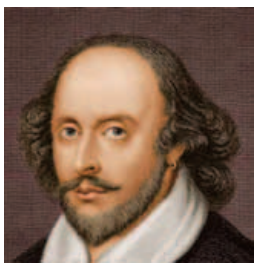
PUBLIC NOTICES

Whanganui's inaugural
'Best of the Bard Shakespeare Festival'

INFORMATION EVENING
Monday 30th November
Amdram Theatre, 171 Guyton Street - 7:00pm

We're looking for:

- Actors interested in performing Shakespeare.
- Emerging and experienced directors.
- Creative collaborators who want to help shape the future of the festival.



The evening will outline our vision for the festival, opportunities for involvement, and how you can become part of this exciting new event. Modern, diverse, multi-lingual, if you can imagine it, we want to explore it.

amdram
musical theatre - wanganui

TE KAUNIHERA Ā-ROHE O Whanganui DISTRICT COUNCIL

Holiday Deadlines 2026 - 2027

LIM requests

Deadlines for LIM (Land Information Memorandum) have changed for the 2026-2027 Christmas/New Year holiday period.

If you need a Land Information Memorandum (LIM) report before the 2026-2027 Christmas/New Year holiday period, please ensure your completed application and payment reaches us no later than **5.00pm on Wednesday, 9 December 2026.**

Applications made after Wednesday, 9 December may not be processed before we close for the holiday period at **12 noon on Thursday, 24 December 2026.**

The statutory 10-working day processing timeframe for LIM applications will be suspended from 12 noon on Thursday, 24 December until Friday, 8 January 2027 inclusive.

whanganui.govt.nz

TE KAUNIHERA Ā-ROHE O Whanganui DISTRICT COUNCIL

Council meetings

December 2026

You are welcome to attend Whanganui District Council public meetings.

Whanganui Rural Community Board	Wednesday, 2 December 9.30am	Council Chamber, 101 Guyton Street
Extraordinary Council Meeting	Thursday, 3 December 9.30am	Council Chamber, 101 Guyton Street
Operations and Performance Committee	Thursday, 3 December 10.45am	Council Chamber, 101 Guyton Street
CCO and Economic Growth Committee	Tuesday, 8 December 9.30am	Council Chamber, 101 Guyton Street
Risk and Assurance Committee	Thursday, 10 December 9.30am	Council Chamber, 101 Guyton Street
Strategy and Policy Committee	Thursday, 10 December 1.00pm	Council Chamber, 101 Guyton Street
Council Meeting	Tuesday, 15 December 9.30am	Council Chamber, 101 Guyton Street

Agendas and livestreaming are available at:
whanganui.govt.nz/agendas

If you have flu-like symptoms, please stay home and tune into the livestream.

whanganui.govt.nz

Environment and Community Resilience are Inseparable.



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

horizons regional council

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SATURDAY 12 DECEMBER
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GREAT PEOPLE! GREAT CLUB!



Sharen & Matt Tunnell
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OPEN HOMES

Saturday & Sunday
November 28th & 29th

Saturday

12C Cornwall Street	BEO	$399,000	11.00 - 11.45am
9 Tui Street	NP	$369,000	12.00 - 12.30pm
12 Downes Avenue	NP BEO	$625,000	1.00 - 1.30pm
32 Purnell Street	BEO	$850,000	2.00 - 2.30pm
25 Stark Street	*Price by Negotiation*		3.00 - 3.30pm

Sunday

10 Leicester Street	BEO	$655,000	11.00 - 11.30am
3A Oakland Avenue	NP	$855,000	12.00 - 12.30pm
9 Ngatarua Road	BEO	$785,000	1.00 - 1.30pm
9 Kelvin Street		$548,000	2.00 - 2.30pm
60 Marybank Road	BEO	$699,000	3.00 - 3.30pm

BEO - Buyer Enquiry Over
NP - New Price
New Listing - Green
NEG - Negotiable

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SPORTS NEWS

Archery lessons available to anyone six years and over

This month has been very productive for Marangai Archery, with numerous groups, schools and social groups having kept the venue busy.

Earlier this week, they welcomed the high school support group, with the added bonus of being able to shoot in their hall. After enjoying some food in the staffroom, 25 support staff took part in an archery session, achieving some great scores – although there were also a few missed targets, which caused plenty of laughter!

Their next group visit was the following day, when 9SQN cadets held their annual event at the club. Around 50 cadets took part, starting with a BBQ before trying their hand at archery. Everyone gave it their best shot, with some great scores recorded along the way. The squad will hold its prizegiving event just before Christmas.

Marangai Archery Club has hosted 23 family and business groups this year, as well as running archery sessions at several secondary schools. It's been a busy year for the club, with coaching for newbies also helping to boost membership, which is growing rapidly.

The weather has picked up and, with summer looking promising, there should be plenty of good shooting in the New Year. Many of their shooters are now shooting over longer distances, which is great preparation for competition shooting.

Their grounds offer plenty of space, with a good safety buffer around the club.

Sessions are open to everyone aged six and over, with no upper age limit – you can enjoy archery for as long as you are able. Sessions follow the Archery New Zealand curriculum and cater for everyone from complete novices to experienced archers who are ready to shoot, under the guidance of a Level 3 coach.

If you'd like to book a session for a business or family group, the club has its own BBQ facilities, with tea and coffee provided.

The club have bookings lined up for the final month of this year and approximately 20 already for next year, but they can still fit in more.

Marangai Archery Club look forward to coaching you and teaching you the basics of archery. If you would like to make a booking and learn how to shoot a bow, simply ring 027 216 3741 or email secretary@marangaiarcheryclub.co.nz.



Archery training session in progress.

Target Shooting

18 November – Target Shooting results

Patrick McCartie 290, Raewyne Simpson 280, Aria Hill 278, Marshall Munro 278, Finlay Rhodes 263, Glen McCartie 262.

Aramoho led the way in rugby union

Mention the name "Aramoho" and the name "Belliss" and lawn bowls come to mind, along with oarsmen on the Whanganui River.

But Aramoho has another sporting distinction. It hosted the first game of rugby in Whanganui in 1872.

Town played Country only two years after the game was introduced to New Zealand.

Peter Johnston's book *Blue & Black* – celebrating 100 years of rugby in the province – records the first game played here.

The book records that the game in 1872 was instigated by Mr A. Drew, a former captain of the Nelson Football Club who had recently moved to Whanganui.

Drew had played in the first game of rugby in the country, at Nelson on 14 May, 1870.

The historic first game at Whanganui was scheduled for 15 June, 1872.

The match had to be postponed for a week because no suitable ball could be found in either Whanganui or Wellington.

On the following Saturday, 22 June, teams of 20 players a side met. After two hours of play it was decided to continue the game on the following Saturday.

Blue & Black takes up the story: "Unfortunately the game did not reach a conclusion, due to several 'incidents' after the commencement.

"These were graphically detailed in the 'weekly Herald' thus –

"Soon after play commenced one of the 'rustics' boldly infringed one of the rules and insisted upon a rough and tumble game. The Country player referred to thereupon forgot he was playing with gentlemen and descended into the more congenial atmosphere of Billingsgate. The Town captain left the field followed by his subordinates, the game being effectively stopped.""

The incident did not deter enthusiasts, who the following month turned themselves into a club. Two further matches – Scots v English – were played in the first year, in August and September.

Suzuki International Series the biggest yet



Expect intense race action like this when the Suzuki International Series kicks off in Taupo early next month. *Words and photo by Andy McGechan, www.BikesportNZ.com*

Once again the rest of the world is looking this way as the most prestigious motorcycle road-racing series in the Southern Hemisphere prepares for blast-off.

The annual Suzuki International Series is regarded as the perfect place for elite international riders, and club-level champions too, to showcase their motorcycle racing skills.

Reports are in that the popular Suzuki International Series has attracted the largest number of international riders ever seen competing together in this part of the world.

Organiser Allan 'Flea' Willacy said he was "delighted to report that a large number of entries have been received this year, with 17 international competitors signed up, arriving from Australia, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands and the United States. It is the largest number of international entries seen in New Zealand since the Marlboro Series days in the 1970s.

Overall entries received are also a record, with 24 riders entered for the premier F1 class, more than twice the number of riders entered for any other major road-race series in this part of the world.

The three-round series starts with round one at the Taupo International Motorsport Park on the weekend of 5–6 December. The riders and their crews then head off to Manfield, on the outskirts of Feilding, for round two a week later, on 12–14 December.

The traditional one-day third and final round is again set for the public streets of Whanganui, on the fabled and spectacular Cemetery Circuit, on Boxing Day (26 December). Begun in 2008, this year's 18th annual Suzuki International Series will also mark the 75th anniversary of the Cemetery Circuit event, a race day that first ran in 1951 and is also sometimes hailed as the "Isle of Man of the south". It is one of the few motorcycle street events still happening anywhere around the world, and is perhaps the jewel in the crown for motorcycle road-racing in New Zealand.

It all kicks off the busiest time of the year for New Zealand's premier motorcycle road-racers and the international elite who make the trip Downunder.

It will again be celebrated as the Southern Hemisphere's premier "round the houses" race meeting, sponsored of course by Suzuki New Zealand, but again too with additional high-profile financial support from Oceania's leading freight and logistics provider Mondiale VGL.

"It's fantastic also to have this continued support from Suzuki New Zealand," Willacy said.

"The inclusive nature of the international series class rules allow club riders to compete alongside seasoned campaigners and these events are a launching pad for many of our up-and-coming competitors," said Willacy.

Early bird tickets are available until the end of this month. For more details, head to www.cemeterycircuit.co.nz

2026 Suzuki International Series

- Round 1, Taupo, 5–6 December
- Round 2, Manfeild, Feilding, 12–13 December
- Round 3, Whanganui's Cemetery Circuit, 26 December

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3 1 2 4

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Thursday, 3rd December 2026 at 5.30pm

Doors open at 5.30pm so join us for drinks, nibbles and mingling before we kick into things at 6.00pm.

RSVP: anita@pb.co.nz or call 06 345 7714.

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