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Brunswick School teaching students to act sustainably through lavender oil production

BY DOUG DAVIDSON

Brunswick School recently received a Horizons Council grant to buy a still. But before you think barley leading to whisky, the still is for the students to distill the oil from lavender flowers to make a variety of products, which can then be sold to the public.

It is all part of an 'authentic learning project' approach to encourage students to problem solve and to develop relevant skills useful in life.

A key person in this educational approach is Pollyanna Jones, who joined the Brunswick teaching staff only earlier this year. She was introduced to authentic learning projects in a similarly small rural school of Hukerenui, just north of Whangarei, and

has brought this approach and knowledge to Brunswick.

Brunswick is an Enviro-school and last year achieved silver status, and Pollyanna says, "I am now trying to enrich our school and equip it to be able to reach Gold. The whole school is involved with the Enviro-schools Programme."

This programme aims to foster a generation of people who instinctively

think and act sustainably. Nationally, over 1,373 Early Childhood Education (ECE) centres, primary, intermediate and secondary schools, are part of the Enviro-schools network. This is a third of all schools and 12 per cent of the large ECE sector.

In the Manawatu-Whanganui area, there are 68 schools and ECE centres involved. When Brunswick achieved their grant from Horizons, it was one of 25 grants and one of three in Whanganui, with the others being Tawhero and Westmere.

At Hukerenui, the school set up the 'A-maizing' maize company using one hectare of school land and leased another five hectares from a local farmer. It was a student-led project. As Pollyanna says, "They arranged for the seeds, the planting, the cultivation, harvesting and marketing, contacting different companies themselves, helped by local sponsorship."

The students started other projects under teacher

supervision, including making dried fruit from the orchard, Mānuka balm from their native bush, lip balm from beeswax and lavender balm and hydrosol spray from their lavender plants.

The school won the New Zealand competition for authentic learning projects and then went on to win the world competition in the USA. Pollyanna was teaching there by then and got involved under the leadership of the principal, making a film about their projects. The school won both competitions again.

Here in Brunswick, Pollyanna suggested the school also do lavender growing and processing. As she says, "They are easy to grow, are hardy, not expensive to buy, produce plenty of flowers, and Brunswick has plenty of space." As Brunswick was already an Enviro-school, the principal and staff are very supportive.

But it is more about the type of learning. It is a style of learning that en-

courages students to create a tangible, useful product to be shared with the world with the teacher as a facilitator.

The learning areas involved in such projects can include planning, timelines, communication, planting, sustaining, financial literacy (profit/loss, accounts), communication, marketing, advertising and selling, art and design for packaging, quality control as well as Maths, English, Science and Horticulture.

The Brunswick Enviro team, helped by members of the community, has created the lavender garden, which currently is in flower mand as the still is yet to arrive, sprigs of lavender might be sold in their school stall, along with fruit and vegetables grown at the school.

Continued on page 3



Pollyanna with some of the school's lavender flowers

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Check out what's in this week's RCP

It's great to hear some schools such as Brunswick are enviroschools and are doing practical projects such as they are doing with their lavender project (see our front page article). Check out the range of skills they are gaining in the process.

Rod Sach has been supporting a kindergarten in Gaza for the last few years. Sadly, it no longer exists, and Rod is concerned about the teacher and the students (page 7).

The successful and popular Whanganui Summer programme is returning. Dave Scoullar gives a preview (page 23).

Congratulations to Whanganui Softball. The sport was at a low ebb but it has been revived and is humming with plenty of clubs, teams and players (page 24).



Doug Davidson
journalist@
rivercitypress.co.nz

The Whanganui Community Patrol play an important role in helping to keep Whanganui safe, but they need more volunteers (page 3).

Victoria Dental has expanded the services they offer as well as the number of surgeries, in the process reversing the need to leave town and instead attracting patients from outside of Whanganui (pages 13-15).

'Legal Tender' band to play for Brain Injury Assn fundraiser this Sunday

The "Legal Tender Band" of Ian and Moira Campbell, with Wayne Mason on the keys, play for the local Brain Injury Association fundraiser on Sunday 19 November, at the Repertory Theatre in Ridgway Street, starting at 2pm.

The duo have been performing an eclectic mix of rural/folk covers and originals around New Zealand for more years than they care to remember.

They have collaborated with many other Kiwi musicians, including various members of the Hamilton County Bluegrass Band, Bullfrog Rata, The Andrew London trio, Carlyann, and many others. They feature regularly at various country/folk festivals and concerts around New Zealand. With their blend of alternative rural/folk covers and their own down-home original songs, they have entertained audiences from the Bay of Islands to the Deep South.

Tickets cost \$30 and include a light after tea. They can be purchased from President Nerrily Frith, Community House

office and from the Brain Injury Office in Community House.

It is a major fundraiser for the Association which has seen a doubling of their workload in the last two years. Nerrily says, "Everyone has been under so much pressure, and people have been slipping through the cracks with many contacting us for support."

The local region, serviced by Liaison Officer Belinda Arundel, is extensive, covering Whanganui, Waimarino, Rangitikei, up to Waverley and unofficially, the rest of Taranaki as they do not have their own association. Belinda says, "We are the only group in



"Legal Tender Band"

this area providing support to those with brain injury and their families. Because of the workload and lack of extra funding,

much of our support has to be over the phone and by email." In March next year, there will be Brain In-

jury Awareness Month. Expect Belinda, Nerrily, and others to be out and about providing information.

- The Warratahs coming to Whanganui -



From left: Alan Norman, Caroline Easter, Barry Saunders, Nick Theobald, Nik Brown - Photo credit: James Gilbert Photography

It's a new line-up for The Warratahs, so don't miss the chance to see this great NZ band at the Whanganui War Memorial Centre.

Replacing the late Michael Knapp, who died suddenly in July 2022, new drummer Caroline Easter also brings her excellent vocals to the band.

Fresh from a Wellington recording studio, the 5-piece band will be featuring several new tracks, along with the many songs from Barry Saunders that are permanent entries in the New Zealand Song Book. The Warratahs were born 36 years ago. Still going strong.

The Warratahs, Whanganui War Memorial Centre, December 1st 8pm.

Tickets from the Opera House or www.whanganuivenues.co.nz

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'Small Talks' lives on to entertain and raise money for charities

Wanganui Community Patrol needs new members



A good crowd at the last Small Talks.

Wanganui Community Patrol asks the question – “Do you want to work alongside Whanganui Police to help build safer communities? If so, then you can help Wanganui Community Patrol make a real difference.”

Community Patrols are made up of ordinary people who want to give something back to the community. These volunteers work alongside local police as ‘eyes and ears’ carrying out both daytime and night time patrols.

Community Patrols throughout the country:

- Patrol residential, business and industrial areas to deter or identify criminal activity.
- Report signs of suspicious activity.
- Gather information for police.
- Assist in accidents and crime scenes.
- Watch out for stolen vehicles and other property recorded as stolen.
- Watch out for missing and wanted persons
- Assist the public at community events, including crowd control.

In Whanganui, members are active Thursday through to Saturday and sometimes on a Sunday. This involves three patrols a day in one of the two cars, and two at night. Members will also be at the Police Station watching CCTV alongside a police officer from 9pm to 2.30am. They also walk through the CBD, chatting with retailers and making their presence known. They always work in pairs.

While travelling around they stay inside the vehicle but will speak to members of the public as required. The cars are fitted with dashcams from which police can download footage, such as when the volunteers have been observing boy racers. This footage is acted upon.

The vehicles also contains fire extinguishers, first aid equipment, lights and safety cones. At times, volunteers are



Phil, Bronwyn and Patrick

called upon to stop traffic or man cordons put in place by the police.

Members will also work with the Civil Defence team in emergencies, distribute pamphlets, including for Neighbourhood Support, and work closely with the Whanganui District Council, especially with the Safer Homes Project.

The RCP spoke with three members – Phil the Chair, Patrick responsible for news and media and Bronwyn, responsible for events and promotion. Membership is around 30, down on the 50 to 60 of about 10 years ago.

Members are expected to do a minimum of one patrol or a combination, each month.

Phil says “The Police are very supportive and treat us like their own. If we get into trouble, they are there really quick.”

Members join the police for intel meetings every Monday at 9.30am and the night patrol attend the change of shifts briefings.

The cars are fitted with amber stroke lighting as well as alarms.

Why do they do it? Apart from the satisfaction of providing police with real support, there is the knowledge that

you have likely deterred criminal activity or have made it possible for the police to take quick action. When you go on patrol, either on foot or in the car, you develop a strong sense of collegiality.

Regular training is provided covering both the law and practical aspects, such as the use of a fire extinguisher.

Anyone interested in joining the Community Patrol can phone the office on 348 1968 and leave a message or email them at wanganuicommunitypatrol@gmail.com.

What does it take to organise four charity events every year that helps local organisations raise much-needed funds and tell their story to a new audience with only two volunteers and two amazing partners?

“Persistence,” explains Neil Jones of YourTour360, one of the volunteers who works tirelessly to bring Small Talks to life by being the tech guru, speaker wrangler, artist, and so much more.

Small Talks is the third iteration of what started as PechaKucha, a presentation style developed by architects in Japan with 20 images at 20 seconds to allow the storytelling to flow. PechaKucha translates to ‘chit chat’ in Japanese.

This led nicely to the second iteration, PicChat, and now to Small Talks, which uses 15 images at 20 seconds each for

a total of five-minute presentations. Speakers come from all corners of Whanganui and can speak on any topic they are passionate about – except for religion, politics, or blatant self-promotion.

“Finding ten speakers for each event can sometimes be a challenge,” says Kathy Cunningham of Empire PR, who is the volunteer responsible for promoting the event, liaising with partners, and helping to find speakers among other things, including doing four Small Talks.

“Because Neil and I have done four talks each, we have an empathy with and appreciation for the speakers at each event, which always makes these events interesting, as we never know what we will learn,” continues Cunningham.

The final Small Talk of 2023 is on Tuesday, 21 November, at Heritage

House, 163 St Hill Street, with doors opening at 6:30pm and the event starting at 7. Tickets are only \$15 when pre-purchased at Bayleys or \$20 at the door.

Bayleys Real Estate has been a sponsor since the start of Small Talks, when we used their event space as the venue. When the company reconfigured that space into offices, Heritage House came to our rescue and have donated the Ballroom, chairs, and tables. The Wanganui Club is open before, at half-time and after Small Talks, which gives guests time to relax, purchase a beverage, and enjoy the company of interesting people.

“This Small Talks is special since we are raising funds for local rural volunteer firefighter Triona Cooney’s efforts to do the Sky Tower Stair Challenge, which raises funds for the Blood and Leukaemia Foundation,” says Jones.

“Triona is the only local firefighter to do the challenge which is running up 1,103 steps while wearing 25kgs of gear. I’m not sure I could walk up that many steps only wearing a t-shirt and shorts!” concludes Neil.

The first Small Talk of 2024 will benefit Am-dram, as they celebrate their 150th Anniversary. Date to be announced at Small Talks. For up-to-date information, please follow Small Talks Whanganui on Facebook.

Brunswick School to distil lavender oil

Continued from page 1

Pollyanna says, “The team will decide what products to make for sale from next year’s flowers,” but the possibilities are extensive. Lavender can be included in shortbread (“the taste is subtle”), lemonade (but she doesn’t recommend it), tea, hand cream, sanitiser, bath bombs and washing powders. The dried lavender can also be put into pillows, into bags for drawers, or even for a scented door stopper.

The Horizons grant is enough for both a still and to cover expansion of their current small lavender patch.

For more information about enviroschools visit <http://enviroschools.org.nz/>

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Social documentary photographer wishes to connect with families in need, willing to share their stories

James Price has had a round about way into photography, especially social documentary photography. He worked in commercial photography in Whanganui but despaired at the lack of creativity, and after heading off to Adelaide, Australia, switched to Early Childhood Education, working with preschoolers living with Autism.

Returning to New Zealand, James worked with young children and families living with Autism, coordinating education and health-intensive wraparound services while also working as a Lead Professional with Oranga Tamariki's Children's team.

When Covid struck, James changed direction back to photography. Working from home, he decided to study art and



Wilma and James Price

creativity, leading to a New Zealand Diploma in Creativity, level 6, by September 2023.

Earlier in June, he went to the Philippines, where his wife's family are from, researching documentary

photographic projects. You can read about it at www.jamesprice.pro/documentary.

He says, "My work is driven by a desire to raise awareness, encourage empathy and inspire positive

change. Through the power of visual storytelling, I aim to highlight the everyday challenges faced by families living in poverty, focusing on the resilience and strength they demonstrate in the face of adversity."

Why focus on people who are struggling economically? James explains: "We like to hide poverty, find it hard to discuss beyond statistics, seldom actually see it or experience it ourselves and generally find the realities of poverty in New Zealand hard to accept."

By contrast, in South Asia, "it is close to normal life." He does not claim to be an expert as to the causes or what specific changes need to be made but wishes to start conversations.

He would like to connect with families in need who may be willing to share their stories through photography, saying, "I understand that privacy and sensitivity are paramount. I am committed to respecting their wishes and concerns and ensuring that their identities and personal information are protected. Any photography would be carried out with the utmost care and respect."

He is open about what use of the photographs there should be. If there was an exhibition, he would not show faces, and if young people were photographed, he would need parents to sign a form giving permission.

You can contact James at jpriecenz@icloud.com

Whanganui Community Choir: 'Together Hand in Hand' concert next week



Community Choir rehearsal this week

As with most Community Choir performances, expect a wide range of songs performed by 50 to 60 choir members, expertly led by Caleb Arthur, when they perform at Central Baptist Church, Wicksteed Street, at 2pm on Saturday, November 25.

The Beatles song 'When I'm 64' will be appreciated by many in the audience, followed by a medley of songs from 'Showboat' including well-known and loved songs, 'Old Man River' and 'Can't Help Lovin' That Man.'

There is an Irish blessing which Caleb says is "really nice" but does not involve the choir drinking any whisky. Another highlight will be a Walter De la Mere poem - 'The Listeners.' There will be a nod to Christmas time with the singing of the theme of Home Alone - 'Somewhere in My Memory.'

But understandably, Caleb doesn't want to reveal the full repertoire except to say there will also be some fun, slower songs. He is pleased with the increasing number of men in the choir. It has reached

the highest for a number of years with about 15.

Guest artist will be the local singer Sophie Toyne, New Zealand Country Music 2023 Junior Entertainer of the Year, who will sing four songs.

The concert will last about 75 minutes, and afterwards, there will be afternoon tea provided.

Tickets at \$20 for adults, \$15 for seniors, \$10 for students and \$50 for a family ticket will be available at the door or from Choir Members. It is free for children under 12.

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Porridge Watson celebrating their fourth birthday this Saturday

Over the past four years, the bar and eatery Porridge Watson has overcome tough times such as Covid, economic downturns and rising prices and has not only survived but has become an iconic bar/eatery/entertainment venue of Whanganui.

Owner Tony Sundman is understandably proud, saying, "Despite all those issues, we still managed to run and develop a multi-faceted community base." Porridge Watson has been used for comedy shows, poetry reading, craft beer tasting sessions, a specialised play presenta-

tion, a concert venue for local and touring bands, and hosting a DJ, while "providing quality food and great craft beers."

He adds, "Porridge Watson has gone hand in hand with the redevelopment of Drews Ave. Four years ago, there was just Jack and his Article Café and us. Now there is Katie Brown's glass shop, Sour Bros, the Teal Lounge, Hadleigh Reid's redeveloped buildings, the Orpheus Gallery, as well as Frostie Moons, the progress of the Musicians Club at the top of Drews plus the street upgrading with designs, seating, plants and things to do. It

has been constantly growing better and better."

Tony adds, "We all support each other on Drews Ave. For example, you can buy your pizzas from Sour Bros and eat them in our courtyard. You can also buy hot waffles with dairy-free ice cream, milkshakes and sodas from my Frostie Moons and likewise eat them in the courtyard."

There are further developments for Porridge Watson. On 4th birthday Saturday, Easy Tiger Burgers will be operating out of Porridge Watson. Tony explains, "They will be producing smash burgers" (A loosely packed

ball of ground beef placed on a hot pan or grill and pressed firmly into a thin patty with a spatula or a cast iron press.) "instead of patties being cooked on the outside, this method allows the flavour to go right through."

There will also be a new cocktail bar in the courtyard of Porridge Watson, operated by award-winning mixologist Emily Wolmarans. (She featured on our front page on February 9, 2023.) This will be called 'Angry Fox'.

The 4th birthday party will start at 3pm on Saturday, November 18 and Tony says, "The theme will be 'Magic' and recommends you dress up in any magic way whether as a magician, a leprechaun or someone out of Harry Potter.

There will be a DJ, The Nomad, with MC Antsman. The venue, both inside and out, can cater for 150.

Normal operation hours for Porridge Watson including, Easy Tiger and Frostie Moon, are as follows:

- Thursday, 3 to 10pm
- Friday, 3 to 12 midnight
- Saturday, 12 to 12 midnight
- Sunday, 3 to 8pm
- Monday, 3 to 10pm.



Tony resting in the courtyard of Porridge Watson.

Craig and Laura Cleveland receive long service awards from NZ Funeral Directors Assn

Craig and Laura Cleveland were recently awarded long service awards by the President of the Funeral Directors Association of New Zealand in recognition of them both serving the community as funeral directors for 35 and 30 years, respectively (They go up in 5-year increments. Craig has been a funeral director for 37 years.

It is the first time in the profession that a husband-and-wife team have been given this award, and it reflects both their commitment and hard work over the years.

After six years of working in the funeral profession for Alex Hird, Craig was offered the chance to buy it and he and Laura took a leap of faith, and along with partners, they purchased it in 2004. In 2007, their business partners retired, and Craig and Laura rebranded the home as the Cleveland Funeral Home. It coincided with the company celebrating its centennial year.

Over the years, they have maintained full membership of the Funeral Directors Association of New Zealand, believing the standards and ethical values to be in line with their personal ones. Both Laura, and Craig are fully qualified funeral directors and Craig is also a qualified embalmer. They support their staff to be qualified and encourage anyone who wishes to follow this career to join firms who will support them in this. They have each served terms on the Association's District Committees.

Both Laura and Craig have been involved in the community, serving on various local committees with schools, charity groups and organisations. Craig has been



Laura and Craig Cleveland

with Rotary North for almost 30 years and will be their President next year. Craig also enjoys sharing his talent of playing the piano, and has done this through the years at local rest homes and for many charity and social events throughout Whanganui.

They say, "As we reflect on these past 30 years and on the years of commitment and hard work, we know there is nothing else we would rather do. It has been hugely rewarding, challenging at times, and humbling.

They also comment that "funerals are now way more personal than it was even twenty years ago. Farewells are focused on the person, reflecting them, acknowledging their family, friends, and everything they loved and achieved."

"We are very lucky to have our daughter, Michelle, and son Rhys, working and running the business with us, and we sincerely thank our family, colleagues and our staff who have been amazing and supportive

to us over many years.

We both look forward to caring for our community for many years to come."

Whanganui Bridge Club results

Bridge Results Week ending 12 November:

Monday Swiss Pairs after round 6: 1. M Keelty, S Cvitanovich 94.24
2. A Foley, B Annear 76.26 3. T Jones, J Richardson 72.75 4. S Benefield, N Kennedy 72.66

Tuesday Ellery Pairs: N/S: 1. A Thirtle, T Watson 59.05 2. L Vodanovich, N Bartrum 54.53 3. J Rapson, J Wagstaff 54.32 4. M Voss, C Pepperell 51.65 **E/W:** 1. J & D Newman 63.99 2. D Nightingale, P Verhoek 58.23 3. V Baillie, J Baker 56.58 4. D Haynes, S Fonseca 54.32

Wednesday Swiss Pairs after round 6: 1. J Coxon, B Eriksen

78.56
2. J Delaney, A Hodges 74.17 3. M Hicks, K Rainey 73.24 4. R Bowie, M Dawson 71.70

Wednesday Social - Howell: 1. B Collins, G MacLachlan 62.50 2. M Ewing, R Story 57.29

Friday Social: N/S: 1. S Pedley, J Dodds 60.70 2. J Compton-Schon, L Goodrich 56.47 3. J Firmin-Jones, D Price 55.70 4. S Yeoman, S Benefield 55.43 5. A Buckley, A Thirtle 54.48
6. R Sigley, J Minchington 53.64
E/W: 1. N Bartrum, B Annear 77.33
2. B Collins, J Hore 64.06 3. W Pedley, Wally Duncan 55.68 4. P Paterson, N Parker 54.46
5. Wilma Duncan, A Hancock 53.76 6. M Ewing, G MacLachlan 50.70

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Rod Sach worries about kindergarten he supported in Gaza

Rod Sach recently came to the RCP to tell us about his involvement in and concern for Gaza. His story is as follows:

After watching the documentary 'Born in Gaza' Rod Sach says "I felt I had to do something for children in Gaza." Through the local Quakers he was put in touch with Magdolen who wanted to begin an independent kindergarten. "After verification, I began to support her work with poor and traumatised children. It has been rewarding. I was

frequently sent photos or little videos of the kindergarten rooms, and the children gathered together for a meal or learning the beginnings of reading, writing and arithmetic, in English and Arabic."

"What was important for Magdolen was creating a safe and happy place for the children. She was also strong on teaching etiquette and good manners."

"This work allows Magdolen to be her true self in a happy space with the children. The children

come from a social environment where people commit suicide for lack of work or money or hope. Children die because they cannot travel for treatment."

"Her grandparents were driven out of Jaffa in 1948. Her father suffered a stroke from which he never recovered when the Israeli army attacked their homes and killed a neighbour. She herself suffers from chronic illness due to bomb chemicals."

"And now Magdolen has had to flee from her home

in Gaza City and with her family, take shelter in a children's hospital. She describes it as horrifying. She is distressed that others would not see them as human beings. When she can manage contact, she will thank me for everything I have done - as if it may be for the last time.

Rod sent us the last messages he has received from Magdolen. They read as follows:

Sat 4 Nov 9.25pm
They attacked near our hospital

Sir we want to live as another people we love the life
We have not any thing good like another people so
Death is equal our life
Sir you understand what I want to say

Our life is so difficult and hard

We are good people
We want only our land and rights

Sun 5 Nov 10.57pm

We are in the middle of the war

Every minute we have bombs

Al Shifa hospital in Gaza
A surgeon of MSF (Doctors Without Borders) staff, still inside the Al Shifa hospital in Gaza city, recorded the following comments on November 13. Please note that situation in Al-Shifa is unfolding rapidly.

"We don't have electricity. There's no water in the hospital. There's no food. People will die in a few hours without functioning ventilators.

In front of the main gate, there are many bodies, there are also injured patients; we can't bring them inside."

When we sent the ambulance to bring the patients, a few metres away, they attacked the ambulance. There are injured people around the hospital; they are looking for medical care, we can't bring them inside."

There's also a sniper who attacked patients, they have gunshot wounds, we oper-



Picture of the kindergarten children in happier times.

ated on three of them."

The situation is very bad; it is inhuman. It's a closed area, no one knows about us. We don't have an internet connection, you managed to call me now, maybe you'll try 10 times before you can reach me again."

The medical team agreed to leave the hospital only if patients are evacuated first: we don't want to leave our patients. There are 600 inpatients, 37 babies, some-

one who needs an ICU, we can't leave them."

We need a guarantee that there is a safe corridor because we saw some people trying to leave Al-Shifa; they killed them, they bombed them, the sniper killed them."

"Inside the Al-Shifa hospital, there are injured patients and medical teams. If they give us guarantees and evacuate the patients first, we will evacuate."

Rangitikei Business Awards results

The inaugural Rangitikei Business Awards concluded with great fanfare, celebrating the remarkable achievements of the local business community. The event, which saw an overwhelming response from the community, marked a significant milestone for the region as it recognized and rewarded the outstanding efforts of businesses across various sectors.

The success of the event would not have been possible without the unwavering support and participation of countless individuals. The panel of judges, comprised of industry experts, faced the challenging task of evaluating the multitude of nominations received. Each winner was contacted personally, and their achievements were celebrated during the event.

Furthermore, the vibrant entertainment provided during the awards ceremony added an extra layer of excitement and celebration. The talented entertainers captivated the audience, creating an atmosphere of joy and camaraderie.

The heart and soul of the event, however, lies with the community itself. Their active involvement in nominating businesses demonstrated their deep appreciation and support for the local economy. Their contributions play a pivotal role in driving the region's growth and prosperity.

Jasleen Saluja, the chairperson of the Rangitikei Business Awards, expressed her delight at the successful culmination of the awards. She emphasized the tireless efforts of the committee and underscored the significance of the event in recognizing the achievements of the local business community.

Results: Category/Winner

- * Business excellence in customer service, hospitality, River Valley Lodge Taihape & Tourism.
- * Professional & Services, Hogan Plumbing.
- * Agriculture & Food, Munro Shearing.
- * Brand and Marketing, Nestle Purina Petcare.
- * New Business, Tamata Hauha.
- * Environment & Sustainability, The Egg Project.
- * Spirit of Rangitikei, Marton Boxing Club.
- * Construction, Manufacturing & Trades, Paul Roeven- Richard Construction 2022 Ltd.
- * Not for Profit organisation, Marton Christian Welfare (OP Shop).
- * Education, Research, Science & Technology, PEC Ltd.
- * Small/ Medium/ Retail, Marton Printery Ltd.
- * Small/ Medium/ Retail, Carmen Wihongi- Itza Deal.
- * Lifetime Service, Max Bergen- GB 49 in service.
- * Best Employer of Choice, PEC Ltd.
- * Large Business, The Downs Group.

Sarjeant Gallery Te Whare o Rehua Whanganui presents

Ngā Tai Huri Huri

at the Royal Whanganui Opera House tickets from isite or online at iTicket.co.nz



Stephen Diaz



Deborah Wai Kapohe



Mone Isoda



Cecelia Kumeroa and Dr. Vincent van Uitregt

Sunday 3 December 2023
Doors open 4pm for a 4.30pm start
Tickets \$30 + booking fee from isite or online at iTicket.co.nz

A Musician's for the Sarjeant event, proudly supported by Murray and Denise Lazelle.

A very special performance for Whanganui by Deborah Wai Kapohe, Stephen Diaz, Mone Isoda, Jasmin Ratana and the Whanganui Brass percussionists at the Royal Whanganui Opera House that concludes with the dramatic Gareth Farr composition *Ngā Tai Huri Huri*, which tells of changing tides and seasons, and new becoming old.

The performance will include Tieke Tarapuruhi, a collaborative moving image work by Cecelia Kumeroa and Dr Vincent van Uitregt.



Pigeon racing results

Recent RCP winner



WORLD DAY OF REMEMBRANCE

FOR ROAD TRAFFIC VICTIMS

NOVEMBER 19

Remembering road traffic victims

The World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims (WDR) is commemorated on the third Sunday of November each year – November 19 in 2023.

It is a high-profile global event to remember the many millions who have been killed and seriously injured on the world's roads and to acknowledge the suffering of all affected victims, families and communities.

Millions of people are added each year to the countless millions already suffering: a truly tremendous cumulative toll.

This day has also become an important tool for governments and all those whose work involves crash prevention or response to the aftermath of crashes. It offers the opportunity to demonstrate the enormous scale and impact of road deaths and injuries, call for an end to the often trivial and inappropriate response to road death and injury, and advocate for urgent concerted action to stop the carnage.

The day also pays tribute to the dedicated emergency crews, police and medical professionals who deal daily with the traumatic aftermath of road crashes.

It started in 1995 when road victim organisations, under the umbrella of the European Federation of Road Traffic Victims, first observed the day. At first it was a European day of remembrance, but soon became a world day when organisations from Africa, Asia and South America came on board.



In 2005, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the event as "the appropriate acknowledgement for victims of road traffic crashes and their families". Now the day is commemorated across all continents.

As every year, the objectives in 2023 are to provide a platform for road traffic victims and their families to:

- Remember all people killed and seriously injured on the roads;
- Acknowledge the crucial work of the emergency services;
- Draw attention to the generally trivial legal response to culpable road deaths and injuries and advocate for an

appropriately serious response;

- Advocate for better support for road traffic victims and victims families;

- Promote evidence-based actions to prevent and eventually stop further road traffic deaths and injuries.

Every year, millions are added to the current toll of more than 50 million killed and hundreds of millions injured since the first road death 125 years ago – a disaster that continues day in and day out in all countries of the world.

In addition to the trauma of injury and bereavement, there is also a devastating economic impact for countries, communities and families.

This year, the day aims to put the spotlight on justice, seeking traffic law enforcement, thorough investigation after a crash to find out if a crime has been committed, criminal prosecution with appropriate and civil compensation. These are all part of the justice system.

When carried out seriously, fairly and consistently, such a system for those who have become road crash victims as the result of someone's law-breaking or negligence, deserve. It also represents a main factor of prevention and this would mean that lessons are learnt from the tragedies so that they may not be repeated.

Results were:

Old Birds - Shane Gudopp (Marton) 1150.11mpm or 69kph, Brent Miller (Waverley) 1135.63mpm or 68.13kph, Dave Lacy (Whanganui) 1126.91mpm or 67.61kph, B and A Fairweather (Whanganui) 1123.90mpm or 67.43kph, Benedict Galanida (Whanganui1) 1100.15mpm or 66.00kph.

Yearlings - Brent Miller (Waverley) 1135.63mpm or 68.13kph, Dave Lacy (Whanganui) 1126.91mpm or 67.61kph, B and A Fairweather (Whanganui) 1121.78mpm or 67.3kph, Shane Gudopp (Marton) 1109.05mpm or 66.54kph, Benedict Galanida (Whanganui1) 1100.15mpm or 66.00kph.

RCP's Competition Letterbox was jam packed with entries for the double pass to The Sweet Caroline Tour. Thanks to everyone who entered, and congratulations to Cheryl Lewis, the winner who is looking forward to the sweet sounds of Neil Diamond tribute artist Zac Coombes, backed by a world-class band. Enjoy, Cheryl.

INTERNATIONAL MENS DAY

19 November 2023

International Men's Day's theme - 'Zero Male Suicide'

International Men's Day is celebrated on the third Sunday of November every year. In 2023, it falls on November 19. The theme for International Men's Day 2023 is "Zero Male Suicide."

The day aims to celebrate the positive value men bring to the world, their families, and communities and highlight positive role models while raising awareness of men's well-being.

The month of November is significant as it gathers several events that are important to men. November is the month we focus on raising money for men's health.

The day was created just over a decade ago, in order to give men an equivalent to the century-old International Women's Day. It soon gained massive support in the Caribbean, after which the day was accepted by the international community.

International Men's Day encourages men to teach the boys in their lives the values, character and responsibilities of being a man. Mahatma Gandhi said, "We must become the change we seek." It is only when we all, both men and women, lead by example that we will create a fair and safe society that allows everyone the opportunity to prosper.



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We can save lives together.

Val Overweel - Horizons Regional Council - Road Safety Coordinator

Sunday 19 November is World Remembrance Day for road traffic victims, a day to honour the millions of people affected by road crashes globally.

It is a good time to pause and reflect how we can make a difference. Each crash is a tragedy and has an everlasting effect on individuals, families, friends, and communities. This year, 279 people have lost their lives on our roads - this is 279 lives too many.

The holiday season is fast approaching and roads will be busy, so let's work together to ensure we can all get to where we're going safely.

We aim for a future where no one dies or gets seriously hurt in road crashes in New Zealand. Safety measures like median strips, barrier guards and speed limit reductions have been implemented to reduce the impact of a potential crash.

Our team is frequently out educating people to be road safe. All of these aspects are designed to help keep you safe, but we still need your help.



Before every trip, make sure:

- You're not tired.
- Everyone wears a seatbelt.
- Children are restrained correctly in car seats.
- You are sober - there are no drugs or alcohol present in your system.
- You are free from distractions.

While driving, always:

- Drive within the speed limit.
- Indicate when turning.
- Stop at red lights.
- Keep a safe distance.
- Pull over if you're driving slowly to allow others to pass safely.
- Take breaks on long trips.

By following these road safety practices, we can save lives together.

Have a safe and happy holiday season.



TAILGATING
NOT INDICATING DRIVING TOO SLOW

FATIGUE

NOT PULLING OVER
NO KNOWLEDGE OF BASIC ROAD RULES

USING YOUR MOBILE

SPEEDING

NO SEATBELT

OVERTAKING DANGEROUSLY **RUNNING**

UNRESTRAINED ANIMALS **RED LIGHTS**

DRINK/DRUG DRIVING

UNRESTRAINED CHILDREN

ROAD SAFETY

We all have a part to play.

For more information visit www.horizons.govt.nz
or freephone Horizons on 0508 800 800

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REGIONAL COUNCIL

2018 TOYOTA PASSO

1.0L, petrol auto, only 30,000kms, body kit, rear parking sensors, remote central locking, traction control, active start/stop, air cond, high seating.



NOW **NOW \$12,995**

2018 SUZUKI X BEE

1.0L, HYBRID auto, only 68,000kms, fog lights, alloys, Isofix, 360 degree camera, reverse sensors, push button start, 5.4L/100kms.



Was \$21,995 **NOW \$19,995**

2019 SUZUKI SWIFT RS

1.0L, turbo, petrol, auto, only 26,000kms, alloys, reverse camera, SatNav, Android Auto/Apple CarPlay, only 5.7L/100kms, turbo, 1 owner.



NOW **NOW \$21,995**

2021 HYUNDAI IONIQ 5

58kwh, fully EV, auto, only 45,000kms, 380km range, reverse camera, alloys, Apple CarPlay / Android Auto, wireless charging.



Was \$56,995 **NOW \$55,995**

2022 SUZUKI IGNIS GLX

1.2L, petrol auto, only 1,800kms, roof rails, only 5.4L/100kms, roof rails, Isofix, SatNav, reverse camera, cruise control, bluetooth, overdrive.



NOW **NOW \$21,995**

2022 HYUNDAI KONA N

2.0L, turbo petrol, 8 speed auto, 280hp, only 15,000kms, precision tuned suspension, 18" alloys, reverse camera, SatNav 3 drive modes.



NOW **NOW \$52,995**

2021 NISSAN NOTE X

1.2L, HYBRID, auto, only 900kms, climate control, body kit, LED headlights, blind spot detectors, parking sensors, E-Power.



Was \$36,995 **NOW \$34,995**

2018 HYUNDAI KONA ELITE

2.0L, petrol, auto, only 48,000kms, keyless start/entry, alloys, wireless charging, reverse camera, bluetooth, heated leather seats, great colour.



Was \$27,995 **NOW \$26,995**

2008 HONDA CR-V

2.4L, petrol, auto, only 155,000kms, alloys, fog lights, body kit, tints, weather shields, keyless entry/start, large boot, priced to sell!



NOW **NOW \$11,995**

2004 HONDA CR-V

2.0L, petrol, auto, only 170,000kms, alloys, body kit, side steps, weather shields, roof rails, fabric trim, large boot, great price!



NOW **NOW \$7,995**

2014 HYUNDAI IX35 GDI

2.0L petrol, auto, only 141,000kms, reverse camera, alloys, high seating, isofix, cruise control, fog lights, roof rails, leather.



NOW **NOW \$16,995**

2018 JEEP COMPASS

2.4L, petrol, auto, only 34,000kms, alloys, tiptronic, tinted windows, fog lights, keyless entry, 5 star safety, stunning, luxurious & loaded SUV.



Was \$29,995 **NOW \$27,995**

2022 NISSAN X-TRAIL TI-L

2.5L, petrol, CVT auto, only 3,200kms, 360 deg. camera, safety package, adaptive cruise control, top spec, demonstrator.



Was \$59,995 **NOW \$54,995**

2022 MAZDA CX-3 GSX

2.0L, petrol, auto, only 19,000kms, alloys, reverse camera, daytime running lights, leather, Isofix, SatNav, adaptive cruise control, like new!



NOW **NOW \$32,995**

2008 HOLDEN CAPTIVA SX

2.0L, turbo diesel, auto, only 102,000kms, alloys, tiptronic, towbar, central locking, large boot, downhill decent, reverse camera.



NOW **NOW \$13,995**

2019 SSANGYONG REXTON G4 SPR

2.2L, turbo diesel, auto, 4WD, only 74,000kms, black 20" alloys, 7 seater, leather, reverse camera, apple carplay / android auto, towbar.



NOW **NOW \$39,995**

2023 FORD RANGER XLT

2.0L, Bi turbo diesel, 10 speed auto, 2WD, only 3,600kms, hardlid, towbar, alloys, 10.1" touch screen, reverse camera, keyless entry/start.



NOW **NOW \$56,995**

2021 FORD RANGER WILDTRAK

2.0L, bi-turbo diesel, auto, only 34,000kms, alloys, 8.5L/100kms, side steps, LED daytime lights, sports bar, roll away lid, reverse camera.



NOW **NOW \$52,995**

2022 NISSAN NAVARA ST

2.3L, twin turbo diesel, 7 speed auto, 20" black alloys, only 19,000kms, nudgebar with light bar, black hardlid, flares, reverse camera, SatNav.



NOW **NOW \$49,995**

2020 MITSUBISHI TRITON GLX-R

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MARCH

Friday, Nov 24

12 noon, starting on the cnr of St Hill St & Taupo Quay



White Ribbon Day

Women's Refuge

'Join the Pack' Walk

Friday, Nov 24

10am, from the Market \$10 entry

'Join the Pack' against Family Violence - November 25



Believing in rigid rules of masculinity is **20x** more likely to predict committing violence than other demographic factors like ethnicity, age, or income



On average, **9 women** are killed by their partner or ex-partner every year



Violence towards women increased after the COVID19 lockdown

The Sunday after the first lockdown showing highest single spike in family violence incidences reported to Police for the last 3 years

White Ribbon Day is an opportunity for people to stand up, speak up, and say no to violence against women. It's more important than ever to participate in movements such as these since there is a significant increase in violence, harassment, and abuse towards women.

The campaign, active in over 60 countries, is intended to raise awareness about the prevalence of male violence against women, with the ribbon symbolising "the idea of men giving up their arms".

It was started by a men's movement in Canada in 1991 and has been officially adopted by the United Nations as its International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women. The campaign was introduced to New Zealand in 2004 by UNIFEM (the United Nations Development Fund for Women).

In this country, most violence by men against women takes place in the home – with an average of 14 women a year killed by their partners or ex-partners. Each year there are over 3,500 convictions recorded against men for assaults on women and one in five women will experience sexual assault or sexual interference at some point in their lives.

The March in Whanganui is on Friday, 24 November. Participants will gather in Taupo Quay before walking up Victoria Ave to Majestic Square, starting at 12 noon. One of the organisers, Lorraine Sheenagh, who is the coordinator



92% women made up 92% of those assaulted by an ex-partner



100% and 100% of those sexually assaulted by an ex-partner



At least **1 in 5** females (and 1 in 19 males) have experienced forced or attempted forced intercourse in their lifetime



Only 6% of sexual assaults are reported to Police



The rate of successful rape convictions in 2020 was the lowest in 10 years



Only 1.8% of the government's family violence budget is spent on prevention

of the Victim Intervention Network (VIN) working out of Jigsaw,

says, "There will be guest speakers at Majestic Square as well as

information stalls from agencies involved in domestic violence."



Proudly supporting White Ribbon Day

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www.treadwellgordon.co.nz

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On Saturday 25 November – on White Ribbon Day – there will also be a fundraiser event for the Whanganui Women's Refuge 24/7 Crisis Line. The event is to 'Join the

Pack' by walking/running the Bridges. It will take place from 10am to 12noon.

There is a \$10 entry on the day per family – including dogs – and it will start from the Market.

There will be SPCA puppies as well as police dogs on the walk or part of it.

The Crisis Line has historically been manned by volunteers. They have been well trained, supervised and supported but once it became 24/7 there was no further funding to cover all the costs involved.

The volunteers would receive calls on a Women's Refuge' cell phone via the National Women's Refuge call centre. They would be able to access the Refuge's case management system and resources.

The Refuge, however, has decided to employ specialised staff to cover this very important service with two staff on each night. They of course liaise closely with the police as required as the Refuge does all the time.



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Anzac Parade residents encouraged to be prepared for flood events

Whanganui District Council and Horizons Regional Council emergency management personnel will be out

delivering packs to Anzac Parade residents later this week, with information on how they can be informed, prepared and ready to

act in the event of a large flood.

The information packs are a result of recommendations from a strategy prepared by Massey University, alongside residents, Whanganui District Council and Horizons Regional Council to improve community resilience and build awareness in an area which has a history of flooding.

Each pack contains an information sheet on how to sign up for Horizons' automated river alert system, a Household Emergency Plan, tips on what to do if a flood event is forecast or possible, and how to prepare for evacuation if the need arises.

Whanganui District Council emergency manager Tim Crowe will be one of the team delivering information packs this week.

"When we considered appropriate ways of providing information for households, we identified the need for information they can hold on to and refer to time and again as useful, particularly as there are a number of rental properties in the area, which usually see a turnover of tenants.

"That is why we included an in depth information sheet, along with a fridge magnet which outlines three simple steps to take," he says.

"The intention is that

if one household moves out of a property, they would leave the magnet so the next household can remain informed."

Horizons' early warning system has been identified as one of the key methods to ensure Anzac Parade residents are informed and prepared if a flood event is to occur. Once subscribed, residents receive phone alerts as the Whanganui River rises upstream, providing for plenty of time to get ready for an evacuation, if the river continues to rise.

"Individuals who have properties and land at risk of flooding can register with our system from across the region," says Horizons emergency management manager Ian Lowe.

"It is a very useful system and can provide some peace of mind. We have included pre-filled forms for the alerting system in the packs to make it easy for residents to subscribe since they live in an area which has been impacted by floods many times, June 2015 being the most recent.

"That said, while the system is a good predictor of river levels downstream, it is important to emphasise that every event is different because tides, soil moisture levels and additional localised rainfall which can impact how quickly and severe



Anzac Parade flooding

has set up a page on their website, with information specifically for Anzac Parade residents. This can be found at www.whanganui.govt.nz/anzac-parade-flood.

Horizons also has a page dedicated to flood risk on Anzac Parade at www.horizons.govt.nz.

You live in the Anzac Parade area - are you prepared for a flood?

Join us for a free sausage sizzle!

There will be some giveaways too!



Where: Kowhai Park at The Pumpkin
When: Thursday 23 November, 5.30pm to 7.00pm

Whanganui District Council's CDEM team will be on hand to answer questions and have a chat about how you can be informed, prepared and ready to act in the event of a large flood.

www.whanganui.govt.nz/anzac-parade-flood



Tawhero Golf results

10 November 2023 Friday Twilight 9 Hole Ambrose: Team: Out La Wed 27.60, Misfit + One 28.75, Lukes 29.50. **11 November 2023 Saturday 18/9 Haggie [Stableford]** Mathew Te Patu 21, Jan Crossan 21, Billy Beck 19. **12 November 2023 Sunday Billy Beck's Farewell Tournament [Ambrose]** Best Nett: Billy Beck & Stu Cornor 61.25, Lachlan Howe & Geoff Gilsean 62.50, Daniel Bolton & Sheldon Curtis 63.25, Best Gross: Kayden Shedlock & Ivan Howe 67, Mark Luke & Damien Wallace 68, Antz Larkin & Kawana Te Hima 63.75. **Hole in One 15th Hole** Tom Clark

Upcoming Events: November 2023 Twilight 2 Person Team 9 Hole Ambrose Friday's Tee off from 3.30pm - 5.30pm. Saturday's 9/18-hole \$5 Haggie Tee off 7.30am - 12.30pm. Summer membership affiliated \$265 1st October 2023 - 31st March 2024

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Victoria House 1a Rutland Street, Wanganui

Victoria Dental expands to include additional oral surgery and endodontics (root canal fillings) services

If you have been to Victoria Dental on 1A Rutland Street recently, you will have noticed the new layout of the reception area. It is larger, has plenty of space to sit and opens up onto two parts of the dental practice. The door that leads you to the left will be familiar if you have had dental work carried out at Victoria Dental.

But to the right, that door leads you to oral surgery and endodontics (or root canal fillings). Three new surgeries have been created, as well as an area for supplies, including a dedicated sterilization bay.

The decision to carry out this extension and renovation was made, says Hadleigh Reid, owner and dentist, "to accommodate two recently arrived dentists who add a lot to the dental services we are able to provide."

Those two dentists are

David Reznick, who has a special interest in oral surgery and Obus Venter, who has a special interest in endodontics (or root canal fillings).

The decision to expand and upgrade was made "around the middle of last year," says Hadleigh and work started by the end of the year. The architect was BSM Architects and Shane Stone Builders did the building work using their sub-contractors.

The sub-contractors were:

- Kyle Enterprises for electrical work
- Timmark Services
- Allan Tongs Decorating
- Action Drainage
- Mulford Plastering
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David Reznick

David is from the USA. He was a dentist in the US Army. Originally from Virginia, David served in a variety of places, such as Germany, South Carolina and Texas. He then resigned from the army and he, and his wife chose to come to New Zealand "for a better life with our kids. We love the beauty of the country, and it is an easy place to live, and the New Zealand authorities quickly recognized my credentials and training."

He has done advanced training in oral and maxillofacial (jaw) surgery, allowing Victoria Dental to offer expanded surgical services.

David and his family have been with Victoria Dental since May 2022 and have decided to make Whanganui their permanent home and are looking to buy land.

Continued over page



Obus Venter and David Reznick - new staff at Victoria Dental in one of the new surgical rooms

Our extensions are complete!

We would like to introduce two new staff:

David Reznick

With a special interest in Oral Surgery

Obus Venter

With a special interest in Endodontics (Root Canal Treatment)



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Victoria House 1a Rutland Street, Wanganui

Victoria Dental expands to include additional oral surgery and endodontics (root canal fillings) services

Continued from previous page
Obus Venter

Obus can give the credit for being in Whanganui to his older brother, who, at the end of his university studies, went travelling in the UK and met a girl from Feilding. They came to live in New Zealand, and Kritzo now works for the Whanganui District Council as a senior infra-

structure engineer.

Just over five years ago, Obus also came to Whanganui. He trained in dentistry in South Africa and did extra training in an area that he enjoyed – that is endodontics, or root canal fillings.

He notes that there is a huge demand for dentists and specialists in this field. Most of the registered endodontists registered in

New Zealand actually work in Australia.

At Victoria Dental, both Obus and David provide these additional services for their patients, meaning that there is no need to refer them elsewhere. Referrals are coming the other way, Obus points out that there is no endodontic service in New Plymouth, requiring patients to go all the way up to Hamilton.



The new entry and reception area

Now, they are choosing to come to Victoria Dental in Whanganui. On the day the RCP interviewed Obus and David, Obus had 3 referrals that afternoon from New Plymouth.

He is very pleased with the outfitting of his surgery, especially the microscope, which provides extra magnification. There is also the possibility of video recording procedures to allow fellow dentists to observe.

Obus works two days a week at Carpenters Dental in Palmerston North, making it easier for patients from other clinics in the surrounding areas to travel there. The demand for his root canal procedures is

such that it takes up 100% of his time.

David spends about 70% of his time on surgical

procedures, receiving patients from other clinics in the region. He also spends one day a week in Palm-

erston North.

As Obus says, "This network of practices is good for everyone."



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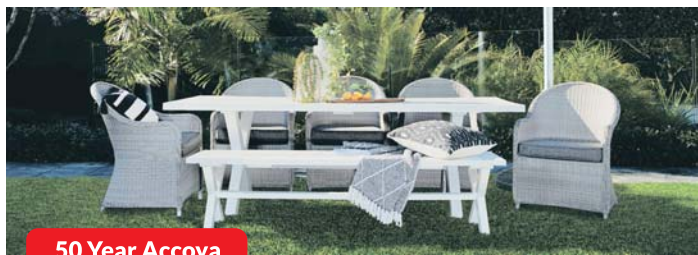


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49 Taupō Quay wins supreme Heritage Award

The Johnston & Co building at 49 Taupō Quay won the Supreme Award at the 2023 Whanganui Regional Heritage Awards held at the Collegiate Big School Building on Saturday, 11 November. Owners Dmytro Dizhur and Marta Giaretton received the beautiful glass trophy given by Katie Brown of Brown & Co.

The 106-year-old building has been earthquake-strengthened and fully restored, including reroofing and interior fit-out to a very high standard and retaining original features.

Originally built in 1914 for Messrs. Johnston & Co. a shipping, trade and insurance company, this mercantile house was intricately linked with Whanganui's flourishing economic development during the early 20th century. The owners created a full-floor retail space on the ground level, now occupied by a boutique store, and a wine bar will open shortly on the rear deck looking over the Whanganui River, both run by the owner of The Burrow.

The first floor is an office space, the second floor has two large New York style apartments, and the top floor has a spacious penthouse apartment.

Deputy Mayor and Her-



Domestic saved and restored winning home on Riverbank Road. Owned by Sharon & David Warburton

itage Trustee Helen Craig was the MC. She says, neither she nor Ann Petherick, the organiser, "We owe Ann a debt of gratitude for her huge effort," were involved in the judging. They were undertaken by different groups of judges for each category with 15 judges in all.

The individual category winners were as follows:

Domestic - Saved & Restored - Sponsor DIZHUR Consulting
 First Place - Tahawai, Riverbank Road, Sharon & David Warburton
 Merit - Halswell Street, Jude Buller

Public Realm - Saved & Restored - Sponsor: Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga
 Merit - Bayly House, Campbell Street, Julie Johnston

Heritage Tourism
 First Place - Whanganui Tours & Mail Run, Tracy Marshall
 Second Place - Snowy Waters Lodge, Raetihi
 Merit - Durie Hill Elevator

Outstanding Contribution to Heritage - Sponsor: Warren & Mahoney Architects
 First - Whanganui Collegiate School Museum & Archives

First Equal - Jane Winston Chapel, Jane Winston, Ryman Healthcare
 First Equal - Johnston & Co. Building, Dmytro Dizhur & Marta Giaretton
 Merit - 38/44 Drews Avenue, Hadleigh Reid
 Merit - The Braeburn, Scott Phillips & Trudy Reeves

Heritage Tourism
 First Place - Whanganui Tours & Mail Run, Tracy Marshall
 Second Place - Snowy Waters Lodge, Raetihi
 Merit - Durie Hill Elevator

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 First - Ucol Whanganui Campus, 16 Rutland Street
Seismic Award
 First - Whanganui Collegiate School, Big School Building
 Second - Johnston & Co. Building
 Merit - Jane Winston Chapel

Māori Realm - Sponsor: Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga
 First Place - Whanganui Tours & Mail Run
 Merit - Waka Maumahaara mo Pura McGregor Sculpture, Virginia Lake Trust Inc

Second - Historic Whanganui Rate (Property) Rolls Database Project
 Third - Author Noel Petherick, Whanganui Club 140 Years

Future Heritage - Sponsor Whanganui & Partners
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Seismic Award
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 Second - Johnston & Co. Building
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Matipo Park charming despite neglect

By Dave Scoullar

Overgrown and neglected, is Matipo Park the poor relation of the Whanganui District Council's parks and reserves department? Seemingly unwanted and abandoned and yet a stone's throw from Aramo-

ho, what is going on there? The council's website explains:

"Matipo Park is a reserve with a mix of native and exotic trees and walking and mountain biking tracks. It

was donated to Whanganui by the Matipo Land Co in 1913. In the past, park users accessed Matipo Park from Brunswick Rd by parking in the carpark, then walking over a short wooden bridge and up a small hill before

crossing the railway line to get to the park. However, the Brunswick Rd entrance to Matipo Park was closed in 2017 when structural issues with the wooden bridge were identified.

"Subsequently, concerns were raised about the legality and safety of crossing the railway line, so we worked with KiwiRail to explore the possibility of installing a level crossing. In September 2020, KiwiRail decided a level crossing would be unsafe at that location, mainly because of sight distances, vertical rail alignment and train speed and operation through the section of railway.

"Since Matipo Park cannot be accessed from Brunswick Rd without crossing the railway line, the Brunswick Road entrance will remain closed. Until there's a safe and legal option to cross the railway line, the wooden bridge near the Brunswick Rd entrance will not be replaced. Walkers can still access Matipo Park via a one-hour walk from the Westmere Walkway."

So, six years after the

Brunswick Rd entrance closed, nothing has changed and the only access to the park is via the walkway. Last weekend the Whanganui Tramping Club visited and was disappointed to find that the last 200m section connecting the walkway to the park, through a grove of willow trees, is totally overgrown. You cross into the park via a stile, which has

been damaged by a falling tree which is pretty indicative of the state of things. Once inside, there is no sign of any clearance work. Tracks are becoming overgrown in places and are littered with windfalls. Weeds and gorse are creeping in.

However, it's not all bad. Parts of the track around the park's perimeter are still charming, and the

area is clearly appreciated by mountain bikers. The views of the city and upriver are great. Matipo Park is a taonga which has been under-appreciated for 110 years. Despite everything it's still worth a visit. Just a shame it isn't more accessible and given a bit of love.

Council senior parks manager Wendy Bainbridge comments as follows:

"There have been access restrictions to Matipo Park for some time now due to safety issues relating to the bridge and crossing the railway lines. Therefore, the access from Brunswick Road remains closed, and maintenance within the reserve has not been undertaken.

The Whanganui Mountain Bike Club has recently submitted a Point of Entry business case for Whanganui District Council to investigate the possibility of a safe level crossing. This is being considered in line with the council's Long-Term Plan.



Despite windfalls, weeds and gorse, parts of Matipo Park remain delightful.

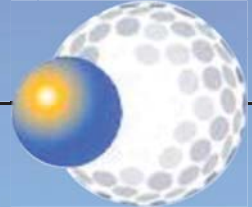
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The Learning Environment holds another ‘potting up’ party

The Learning Environment is based at the Piwakawaka Farm, a regenerative farm in Paipaiti, on the banks of Te Awa Tupua, the Whanganui River. This is where they host various courses and grow products as well as native trees to support forest regeneration in the Whanganui region.

So far, they have planted almost 10,000 native trees at Piwakawaka but hope to plant 100,000 along the Whanganui River banks, supplying them to a Whanganui group Ngā Tāngata Tiaki, who has the planting contract. Their planting at the farm is a multi-year regenerative programme, especially close to the Tauraroa Stream that runs through the farm.

These numbers require a lot of community support to pot up the seedlings, so about once a month, not over winter, they have what they call a ‘Potting Up Party.’ As the weather is right for the seedlings

to thrive, the parties could happen as often as every fortnight.

The message goes out on Facebook, and a wide range of people respond, from teenagers to mums, tamariki to grandparents to those who can spare time on a Thursday. District Councillor Charlotte Melsner is one of those as she did not have a meeting last Thursday. There would have been up to 15 helping out on that day. It is a relaxed environment helping out, learning about the life cycle of forests with plenty of chatter.

Another volunteer was Cassie from the Cancer Society, who supplied sunscreen in return for donations of Monty Surprise apples, with their anti-cancer properties.

Julie Crocker, one of the organisers of the Potting Up Party, says, “We are potting up at least



30 different varieties of native trees and plants.” These include totara, kahikatea, native cabbage tree, kowhai, manuka,

kanuka, harakeke, and putaputaweta. “The seeds are collected from Piwakawaka and from within our bioregion.”

The day starts at 10am to around 2pm, with a fresh lunch provided under the shade of a wild tree.

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As summer approaches, the Department of Conservation (DOC) is calling on fishers and divers to be citizen scientists and share what they see on the water.

Clinton Duffy, DOC Marine Technical Advisor, says recreational fishers and others out on the water can make a significant contribution to research through reporting sightings and accidental catches.

"I'm very interested in what the public has seen – and usually they're keen to identify an unusual creature too. All photos, videos and reports help build a better understanding of our rare and protected fishes, including rays, and sharks.

"We encourage people to take a few photos, full length shots and also of any defining features like fins, jaws and teeth, and details of the colour pattern. The exact location the fish was spotted or caught is useful too," says Clinton.

Certain fish species are protected because they are naturally uncommon and therefore at greater risk of extinction than other

fishes.

"Factors that make them naturally uncommon can include being slow to mature, which means they must survive a longer time before they can reproduce, or having a slow reproduction cycle or a low number of offspring," says Clinton.

There are nine fish species that are protected in New Zealand; five sharks, two rays, and two grouper.

While fishers are not allowed to target these species, it's not illegal to accidentally catch a protected fish. If you do catch one, you must release it as quickly as possible and take care not to cause it further harm, and you must report the capture to DOC. If the fish dies or is found dead, DOC may request you bring it back to shore and provide it to DOC so samples can be taken to support research.

"Spotting an uncommonly seen species would be an amazing fishing story to tell. The basking shark for example, has hardly been seen in our waters since the late 1990s. I'd be thrilled to get a report of one," says Clinton.

Basking shark. Photo by Greg Skomal



DOC has a set of protected species identification guides on its website to help identify sea life, plus a protected species handling guide to assist recreational fishers to safely

release marine life back to the water.

The public can report sightings, captures and strandings to DOC either

anonymously via the Protected Species Catch App, via email sharks@doc.govt.nz or by calling 0800 DOC HOT (0800 362 468).

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GET OUTDOORS WEEK

12-20 November, 2023

Six new excursions on 2024 Whanganui Summer Programme

Have you got a young person who you think would like to try archery?



The Marton trip includes the opportunity to see Steuart Welch's impressive steel sculptures.

The Whanganui Summer Programme for January 2024 has been released, and it will feature six new out-of-town excursions — trips to Marton, South Taranaki, the Taranaki Maunga, Taihape and Parikino, trustee David Scoullar said.

As well, many popular trips will return, such as Kauarapaoa Valley, Mātūi Somes and Kāpiti islands, Blue Duck Station, Waitōtara Valley, Bridge to Nowhere, Rangitīkei heritage homes and Hipango Park. "We like to present a mix of the new and the tried and true and think we have succeeded," David said.

He is anxious to see the Raurimu spiral train trip take place after it was called off in 2022 and 2023. "First it was Covid and then this year the line was blocked and we only learned that when our full bus was about to leave Whanganui for Taumarunui. Hopefully, it will be third time lucky."

Those with an interest in heritage homesteads will be able to see more in the Rangitīkei, and there is a new trip to view historic places between Whanganui and Patea.

The 2024 programme has a particular Whanganui focus, with eight events taking place in the city. "We like to travel away, but it's also good to showcase what we have here," David said.

As always, there will be four Tuesday evening talks on a range of subjects — walking the Te Araroa Trail, underground Whanganui, garden tips and design and public transport.

An additional talk on glass blowing has been arranged by the Whanganui Regional Museum.

"The summer programme goes back nearly 40 years, and there is good support from the Whanganui community. We look forward to that in 2024. All trips are run by volunteers," David said.

Bookings are online at www.iticket.co.nz or at the Whanganui i-SITE Visitor Centre.

The good news is that Marangai Archery can help! The Marangai Archery Club has experienced coaches and can take children as young as primary age, offering them a chance to try a sport they enjoy, plus catering for the family and making it a fun activity for all. Introducing archery to the kids often results in parents bringing their children to try Archery and find themselves shooting as well, and joining the club. It's a wonderful sport for families.

With Christmas just around the corner, the club is starting to take bookings from businesses as an activity for their Christmas parties. Whilst there are some businesses already booked the club still has room for more. If you want to give archery a go as part of a fun way to spend Christmas with workmates and friends, call Maureen on 0272163741, and have a chat.

The club hosts birthday parties, schools, family



gatherings or just a one-on-one. Summer is practically here; a day at the archery range is a good opportunity for families to have a picnic lunch and join in with the club

archers and give the sport a go. Marangai Archery Club has been going for 15 years and has some really good experience in coaching. Join in anytime!

Explore the outdoors this summer and win

Get Outdoors Week is a great reminder to move our bodies outside in nature. Continuing from Sport New Zealand's Play Week (6-12 November), Sport Whanganui encourages everyone to head outside and play during Get Outdoors Week.

Play is everywhere. Play gives us freedom and chances to take risks. Play is how tamariki learn to problem solve, get creative, make mistakes, and learn new skills. It's a fun and easy way for us all to get together and stay active.

The Great Whanganui Play Trail is a fantastic way for families to get out, get active, explore the city, and make new discoveries. You can follow the map, take your time, find some new spots, and make up new games along the way.

Explore the Great Whanganui Play

Trail this summer and be in to win great monthly prizes.

To enter, grab a map from the Whanganui iSite on Taupō Quay and go explore the trail. When you're done, head back to the iSite to fill out a quick survey form. Every completed survey goes in the draw to win a monthly prize — in November there are five family passes for Riverland Family Park up for grabs. A big thank you to Riverland Family Park and our December prize sponsors, Paddle Steamer Waimarie, for your generous support!

Our region has an abundance of beautiful places to play outdoors in nature. Beaches, forests, parks, and even our city centre can be great places to play. All you need is your imagination!

To find out more about the Great Whanganui Play Trail, head to <https://discoverwhanganui.nz/guides/play-trail/>



We can teach you how to use a bow, great coaching and comradeship, we would love to see you be part of our club.



Contact Maureen on 027 216 3741 or secretary@marangaiarcheryclub.co.nz

THE GREAT WHANGANUI
PLAY TRAIL
Win!
SUMMER OF PLAY

Explore the Great Whanganui Play Trail, fill out a survey at the iSite on Taupō Quay and be in to win great prizes!

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DECEMBER: 1X PADDLE STEAMER WAIMARIE FAMILY PASS

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Whanganui swimmers do well in Junior Festival



The Whanganui Swim team

Congratulations to our team of 17, who had a fantastic time over the weekend, making every stroke count, smashing PBs, earning spots on the podium, and even setting some new Whanganui records at the Junior Festival - All Stars in Wellington!

Competing among 210 swimmers from the lower North Island, our team, aged 9-12, gained some invaluable experience and came away with loads of things to learn from. For the majority of them, it was both their first time competing at an event of this scale and at the Wellington Regional Aquatic Centre, where the end of the pool they dive into is 5 metres deep!

They achieved: 68 PBs

28 podium finishes
12 Div II qualifying times, and
2 new Whanganui records

Every member of the team contributed to the PB count, including a large number of swimmers with 4-5 PBs each. Congratulations everyone on a terrific team spirit and a fantastic festival of swimming!

Special congratulations to the following swimmers, who earned themselves a place on the podium:

LINCOLN BEAMSLEY (11 yrs)

3rd: 50m Breaststroke
ZIVA BUNKER (11 yrs)

1st: 50m, 100m and 200m Breaststroke

2nd: 50m, 100m and 200m Backstroke, and 100m IM

3rd: 50m and 100m Butterfly, 50m Freestyle and 200m IM

RYLEIGH DORRICO (11 yrs)

1st: 50m Freestyle Kick
2nd: 200m Freestyle
3rd: 100m Freestyle
RYLEE EARLES (12 yrs)

1st: 50m and 200m Backstroke

2nd: 200m IM

3rd: 100m IM

RACHEL PUI (12 yrs)
2nd: 100m and 200m Backstroke
3rd: 100m and 200m Freestyle, 50m Backstroke, 50m Butterfly and 200m IM

Our 12 and under relay team of Rachel, Rylee, Ryleigh and Ziva placed second in both the 4 x 50m Medley and 4 x 50m Freestyle relays.

Ziva set two new Whanganui records in the 11 year old age group. Her time of 1:14.23 in the 100m Backstroke slashed more than 2 seconds off Marama Bannister's (nee Cameron) previous record which had stood for 36 years, and her time of 1:17.77 in the 100 IM broke Evon Storey's previous record of 1:18.40 from 2006.

CONGRATULATIONS ZIVA!

Thank you to Richard, our support team and all the family and friends who made the trip and cheered our team on.

Softball in Whanganui is in the middle of a real growth period. About five years ago teams were forced to play in the Mana, watū league, but now Whanganui softball has its own increasingly strong competition.

There are seven men's teams and three women's while on Friday nights there are 12 mixed teams playing. The association is developing more umpires and scorers, with senior team members getting involved. Junior softball is also strong, with good crowds turning up at the Braves Ballpark in Gonville on a Saturday.

Whanganui can now boast seven clubs - Aces, Athletic, Braves (two teams), Mustangs, Tigers and Pirates. In 2022, there were Under 19 Men's and Women's teams - the first time for over 20 years.

The need is to give young players opportunities to encourage them to move into the seniors. One way is the recently introduced under-17 fast-pitch softball competition. Four teams have been created - the Yankees, the Mets, Angels and Redsox. The games are played on Monday evenings starting at 5.45pm.

Top players have been sprinkled through the four teams, helping to increase the standard. All players are eligible to be picked for an age-grade Whanganui representative team, with some players as young as 13.

The difference between fast and slow pitch softball is of course the speed of the ball, as a result of the action of the pitcher. Both pitches are underarm but in slow-pitch it is lobbed in an arch, whereas in fast-pitch, it is a full-arm windmill. One other difference is fast-pitch has nine players whereas soft-pitch has ten.



The Mets in orange and blue playing the Yankees in blue and grey.

Great softball in second round of championships

Saturday 4th of November saw the second round of the Championship at the Whanganui softball park unfold, showcasing more great softball.

Pirates took on Aces in the early afternoon round. The action unfolded in the third innings when Aces player Jamie Burn hit safely and was brought home by teammate Tre Wihongi. Pirates tried hard to put runners on base, but Ace's pitcher Te Ao Mulligan kept them at bay taking seven strike outs during the match. In the fifth innings, Aces batters, Devon Maihi and Wihongi hit safely to get on base, and Tyrone Pirere stepped up to the plate, hitting the ball to the outfield to score both runs. It was an all-round team effort on the bat and at the mound. It was a strong performance from Aces batters Burns, Wihongi and Pirere. Pirates made base but were unable to capitalise as a team, leaving players stranded on bases, and Aces came away with the win 3-0.

DB Braves Broncos played Thai Villa Tigers in the other early game. Tigers started with a bang, scoring four runs when, with loaded bases, the experienced Jefferson Yacap blasted the ball to the outfield to score RBI's. Yacap was then able to come home on a safe hit from his teammate Jamie Ballintyne. Whilst the pitchers from both teams looked even on the stats, with both pitchers taking seven strikeouts in the game, the game was won on the bat. Tigers continued to dominate in the batting box with a further seven runs scored to finish the game, the final score 11 - 1 to Tigers.

The third men's game was a close match between Athletic and Ezi Finance Braves. Athletic were the first to score with Athletics short-stop Scotty McKnight making base and being brought home by teammate Tre Hemi to open the score. Braves managed to get on the board in the third innings but were hit back

with a hard response from the hungry Athletic team. Te Orunui Wakefield was in good form after last week's smash fest and continued to be strong at bat. Lance Brown was outstanding at the bat with a .750 batting average. Athletic scored four runs in the last innings of the match to nudge ahead of the Ezi Finance Braves, winning 7 - 5.

In the women's match up of the day, Braves played Athletic in Athletics first hit out of the season. With both teams bringing on young and emerging talent, the scene was set for a good battle.

The match-up looked to be even until Braves gained a 9-run advantage with the top batter, Letitia Steele; boasting an average of .750. Letitia pushed Braves ahead and, in hindsight, out of reach for Athletic, who did their best to stay in the running. Top bats would come from Tracey Campbell and Letitia Steele (Braves), who led their team to victory 14 - 6.

Golf results

Wanganui Golf Club 9 Hole

31/10/23 - LGU Stableford

H Jarrett (20); Lucy Dunlop (17)

7/11/23 - B Tunbridge Challenge - Stableford 9

Hole ladies (149) 18 Hole ladies (135)

14/11/23 Ambrose - stableford

1st P McDowell & S Mangan (28); on CB 2nd T

Robinson & D Harrison (28).

Castlecliff 9 Hole Club

Thursday, 9 November Hatem Hole

Ladies: Anneke Van Dam 22, Joan Coxon 28, Rawinia Connors 30

Mens: Tony Hore 21, Allen Wills 25, Bryan Cameron

25 Raffle: Pat Ryan

SUMMER IS COMING!

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Bridge to Bridge Rowing Race

this Saturday at 10.00am
Upokongaro Bridge to Cobham Bridge



Bridge to Bridge rowing race this Saturday



Bridge-to-Bridge race last year. Let's hope the weather is better this year.

The Bridge-to-Bridge rowing race on Saturday, 18 November, goes from the Upokongaro cycle/walk Bridge through to the motorway Cobham Bridge. It was once known as the 12km race and went from Mosquito Point through to the old Computer Centre building, now the Treadwell Gordon building.

Jacs Rush remembers it well. She was the cox for Aramoho 8s, which defeated Collegiate about

36 or 37 years ago. However, it was never 12 km and probably a km or two shorter. So, about 10 to 15 years ago, it was renamed the 10km race. Now known as the Bridge-to-Bridge race it is probably just over 10km, although, as Jacs says, "it depends on how you handle the bends in the river."

"It is a good course," explains Jacs. "Take your bike out to the Upokongaro bridge, watch the start and then cycle downriver

following the racing. A good cyclist should be able to keep up."

It will start around 10am and should take between 25 and 35 minutes. However, the main event is the racing of the 8s, which will take place about 15 minutes after the others – singles, doubles and quads – head off.

There are many places you can watch – the bridges, Kowhai Park, at the Market, and the walkway. All teams of 8s receive a handicap, with the faster ones having to catch the slower boats, the winner being the first crew across the line. No equivalent of cricket's Lewis-Duckworth system in this race.

They are expecting a number of out of town teams to join Aramoho, Union and Collegiate, coming from Wellington, New Plymouth, Auckland, North Shore and the Hawkes Bay, providing strong competition.

Jacs says, "The winter rowing season has been over 5 to 6km, so this is the first big, long-distance race. Expect some sore hands."

Spontaneous improvisation for musical Jam session this Sunday

Whanganui is a hotbed for live music, and it comes in all shapes and sizes. One offering is the IJD Jam Session which is sponsored by Porridge Watson on the third Sunday of the month. The Chris Dan Trio, featuring Chris on keys, Michael Franklin-Browne on drums and Berndt Reiss on bass, are the house band that welcomes local musicians to come down and jam. And come they do! Last month, there were no less than nine. These included Joe Kennedy, a young saxophonist from Taihape who comes down every month to get the experience that only 'jamming' can give. His parents are taking him to New Orleans so that he can soak in all the culture at the home of his chosen music – jazz.

A good way to describe



Jam session at Porridge Watson Bar

the jam is that it is designed to feature spontaneous improvisation. Here, it is not what has been played before that is on show; rather it is what has never been played before that counts. The music is unpredictable. Who will turn up? What will be played? What we do know is that the musicians who have taken part in these

sessions keep coming back. And the sessions are attracting an appreciative audience.

Come down and check it out. This is an ideal opportunity for jazz club members to hear the music live more than once a month, and a chance for new listeners to engage in this truly international art form. Porridge Watson provides

the perfect environment, with a laid back easy going atmosphere. The food is delicious, and the bar is well stocked. This is a good way to meet up with live music aficionados in an intimate setting.

IJD Jam Session @ Porridge Watson, 30 Drews Ave, Sunday, 19 November, 6:30 – 8:30pm. No Cover Charge

WORLD ACUPUNCTURE DAY November 16

Zhang Acupuncture Clinic offers acupuncture, deep tissue massage and Chinese herbs

World Acupuncture Day is on November 16, and in Whanganui, Jason and Jessica Zhang have run Zhang Acupuncture Clinic at 96 Parsons Street since 2000. They met in medical school in Shanghai, China and came first to Palmerston North in 1997.

Traditional acupuncture is a healthcare system used in the East for over 2,000 years. It adopts a holistic approach to healthcare, considering the mind and body as one, and is based on the idea that a blockage or disturbance in the flow of 'Qi' (a concept from Chinese philosophy), can cause health issues.

Traditional Chinese Medical theory views pain and illness as an indicating that the body is out of balance. The aim of acupuncture treatment is to stimulate the body's natural healing system and restore health and equilibrium.

Acupuncturists insert very fine needles into specific points throughout the body, along pathways known as 'meridians', to regulate body processes and functions, balance the body energies, stimulate healing, and promote relaxation.

Acupuncture is widely used all over the world as a stand-alone treatment or in combination with other forms of medicine. In East Asian countries, it is integral to mainstream healthcare.

People of all ages can benefit from having acupuncture to help manage a range of health conditions, in-

cluding painful conditions such as osteoarthritis of the knee, headaches, or lower back pain, as well as sinus problems, cardiovascular and neurological issues, metabolic and psychological disorders.

Zhang Acupuncture Clinic has developed into a busy practice, with both Jason and Jessica having their own patients. They are looking to employ another acupuncturist to help with the workload. Both Jason and Jessica have been members of AcNZ for more than 20 years.

Their sons have followed the parents into the medical field, with one son being a doctor at Whanganui Hospital and the other a dentist with The Dentists Whanganui.

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Contact us:
If you have any enquiries or would like to discuss anything, feel free to call us on 06 3489168 or come & see us at 96 Parsons Street, Springvale, Whanganui.



Jumbo crossword

ACROSS

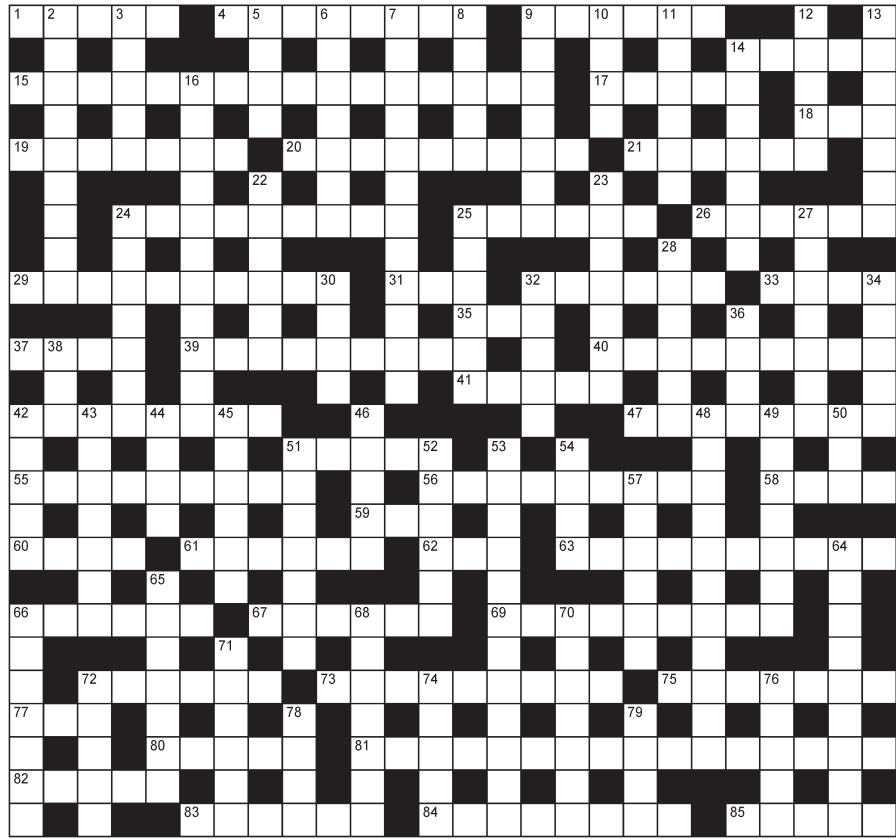
- 1 Of the kidneys (5)
- 4 Signs of illness (8)
- 9 Disconnect (6)
- 14 Leg bone (5)
- 15 Person or thing that one is extremely pleased or relieved to see (5,3,4,4)
- 17 Near (4)
- 18 Racket (3)
- 19 Steel beams (7)
- 20 Pruning clippers (9)
- 21 Edict (6)
- 24 Book of synonyms (9)
- 25 Bits (6)
- 26 Mental giant (6)
- 29 Those expecting the worst (10)
- 31 Cereal crop (3)
- 32 Motto (6)
- 33 Predisposition (4)
- 35 Amazement (3)
- 37 Begging request (4)
- 39 Honeyymooners (9)
- 40 Small thin sausage (9)
- 41 Ooze out (5)
- 42 Party set (anag)(8)
- 47 Brow (8)
- 51 Prison rooms (5)
- 55 Sentimental remembering (9)
- 56 Staff (9)
- 58 Satisfy completely (4)
- 59 Tree (3)
- 60 Fashionable (4)
- 61 Goes rotten (6)
- 62 Consume (3)

- 63 Inviolable (10)
- 66 Ledger entry (6)
- 67 Thwart (6)
- 69 Held in high regard (9)
- 72 Cricket team (6)
- 73 Field figure (9)
- 75 Sweet sauce (7)
- 77 Metal (3)
- 80 Volley of shots (5)
- 81 With startlingly rapid progress (2,5,3,6)
- 82 Eagle's nest (5)
- 83 Highly decorated (6)
- 84 Newspaper employee (8)
- 85 Pickpocket (5)

DOWN

- 2 Completely remove or get rid of (9)
- 3 Greenfly (5)
- 5 Story (4)
- 6 Colonist (7)
- 7 Single direction thoroughfare (3-3,6)
- 8 Fashion, manner (5)
- 9 Merit (7)
- 10 Carpet nail (4)
- 11 Barrel maker (6)
- 12 Residence (5)
- 13 Social conduct (7)
- 14 Small dog (7)
- 16 Low-growing plant with small bright blue flowers (6-2-3)
- 22 Capital of Poland (6)
- 23 Celebrate (7)
- 24 Surplus to requirements (2,5)

- 25 Make glad (6)
- 27 Ape (7)
- 28 Gambling house (6)
- 30 River in Hades (4)
- 32 Inoculation fluid (5)
- 34 Broken glass fragment (5)
- 36 Tree trunk (4)
- 38 Meadow (3)
- 42 Pick-me-up (5)
- 43 Of fish (7)
- 44 Hitch (4)
- 45 Sturdily constructed (6)
- 46 Assumed name (5)
- 48 Principle for general guidance (4,2,5)
- 49 Spouse (7)
- 50 Towards the stern (3)
- 51 Card game (7)
- 52 Orb (6)
- 53 Scribe's ailment (7,5)
- 54 Employer (4)
- 57 Silver-white metal (6)
- 64 Shotgun shell (9)
- 65 Varied (7)
- 66 Talk incessantly, trivially (7)
- 68 Gruesome (7)
- 70 Financial backer (7)
- 71 Insect's antenna (6)
- 72 Way in (5)
- 74 Measuring stick (5)
- 76 Resilient (5)
- 78 Unconscious state (4)
- 79 Long ago (4)



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SIMON SHUKER'S CODE-CRACKER Extra 786

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

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

© 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

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

Hard

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

Previous solution

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

Previous solution

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

Previous crossword solution

ACROSS: 1 Truce, 4 Raise one's sights, 14 Probe, 15 Spiel, 16 Royal flush, 17 Barge, 19 Lad, 20 Leopard, 21 Clientele, 22 Cavity, 25 Frustrate, 27 Adroit, 28 Famous, 33 Bottleneck, 35 Ska, 36 Suffer, 37 Last, 39 Gut, 41 Magnate, 42 Veneer, 43 Liability, 44 Atoll, 45 Repaired, 50 Um, 51 Renegade, 55 Crook, 58 Plentiful, 59 United, 60 Traipse, 61 Owl, 63 Dais, 64 Truant, 65 Err, 66 Promontory, 68 Skewer, 69 Nettle, 71 Ascending, 76 Carpet, 77 Permitted, 79 Twosome, 81 Woo, 84 Spine, 85 Thoughtful, 86 Medal, 87 Eject, 88 Slippery as an eel, 89 Brake.

DOWN: 2 Rapier, 3 Cheap, 5 Atom, 6 Scarlet, 7 Offset, 8 Erupt, 9 Scholar, 10 Gobi, 11 Threat, 12 Jolly, 13 Meddles, 14 Pelican, 18 Prospector, 23 Creel, 24 Pitfall, 26 Rotunda, 27 Anagram, 29 Ocarina, 30 Locate, 31 Ashen, 32 Rebate, 34 Knew, 36 Stoop, 38 Thyme, 40 Hide, 45 Rapid, 46 Puerile, 47 Iota, 48 Effort, 49 Robot, 50 Ukulele, 52 Narrow down, 53 Glisten, 54 Desire, 55 Cleaver, 56 Nitre, 57 Keep, 62 Boxer, 67 Defrost, 68 Seaweed, 70 Theatre, 72 Sweeten, 73 Serial, 74 Stages, 75 Embark, 76 Coped, 78 Moody, 80 Sheer, 82 Weep, 83 Pure.

5x5

S	I			E
	O			O
A	O			D
	I			S
T	Y			D

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

P	A	R	T	S
A	W	A	R	E
T	A	L	O	N
H	I	L	L	S
S	T	Y	L	E

Previous solution

'Clash of the Bands' at the Commercial Hotel

A tribute to Bill Milbank by Greg Donson



A sample of musicians, from all the bands, gathered in the Commercial's Garden Bar to converse about the gig.

The Commercial Hotel is the place to be on Saturday, 25 November, if you love listening to the best Whanganui bands. Check out the following timetable:

- 6 to 7pm. The well-known popular Hot Potato band.
- 7.15 to 8.15pm. Matt Edmonds and Georgie in 'Meow Owls.'
- 8.30 to 9.30pm. 'Blue Veins' with John Keating and others.
- 9.45 to 10.45. 'Blue Buffet', headed by probably Whanganui's best-known rock musician, Fred Loveridge.
- 11 to 12 midnight. 'By-Laws' featuring Duncan Ashby from Bayleys Real Estate and Whanganui District Council employees.

They will be playing in the large car park space from the back of a truck supplied by Dave Hoskins. Bring your deck chairs and umbrellas to sit back, relax and enjoy the music.

There will be food vendors there from 5pm fundraising for their groups, and the two Commercial bars will be open supplying alcohol and non-alcoholic drinks, including water.

If the weather doesn't play ball, the event will be postponed until January 6; any postponement will be on radio and Facebook.

The Commercial opens at 2pm, and there will be a DJ playing from 3pm in the Garden Bar. The DJ is Dean Smith from Pahiatua, the only 'outsider' but has always played here and is well known in the Palm-

erston North/Manawatu area.

The hotel was bought by Kit Edwards and Steve Lawson on September 1, 2022, returning it to local ownership.

One reason for the Clash of the Bands event is Kit "wanting to give back to all those musicians who have supported us over the past year." The lighting and sound are being carried out by Dave Griffith, popularly known as Dave Muso.

The cost of entry is \$25, and you can come and go with your distinctive 'The Comm' green wristband. 365 Security will be handling all security. Capital Taxi will be on standby, and there will also be a registered nurse at the event. All your needs will be well taken care of.

The Sarjeant Gallery team were saddened to learn of the passing of former Director Bill Milbank on Saturday, 4 November.

Bill was at the helm of the gallery from 1978-2006, and during his tenure, he developed facets of the gallery's programming and collecting that remain the cornerstones of what we still do today.

During his time, the Sarjeant Gallery redevelopment project moved from a pipe dream to a realised design by architects Warren & Mahoney, and we were so hopeful that Bill would be with us in 2024 to celebrate the reopening of the gallery he had dedicated his life to.

Bill's Directorship was marked by a remarkable support of artists, many of whom began their public gallery exhibiting careers at the Sarjeant and have since gone on to become Aotearoa's leading artists - Philip Trusttum, Gretchen Albrecht, Mervyn Williams, Andrew Drummond, Laurence Aberhart, Anne Noble and Peter Peryer are but a few in that field. As well as having a good eye, Bill knew when to let an artist drive a project and when he needed to fold support around them. He was also well ahead of his time in the inclusion of contemporary Māori practices in the gallery's programme, with the Sarjeant staging some landmark exhibitions through the 1980s and 1990s. He was also responsible for forming the strong relationship with the family of painter Edith Collier, and it is because of him that we are permanent custodians of Collier's work.

Bill had strong networks with other institutions and was a significant figure in national sector bodies. He was also a driving force in getting New Zealand art abroad, with international touring exhibitions.

After his time as Director came to an end, Bill established the W. H. Milbank Gallery and, until his declining health forced the closure of the gallery, he remained dedicated to his stable of artists and particularly his long-time friend, Philip Trusttum. His gallery was part of Whanganui's arts community ecology, and many local artists were encouraged and supported by him.

In 2005, he was awarded a Q.S.O in the Queen's Birthday Honours for his Community Service. The list of Bill's achievements are long, but we thank him for his legacy, commitment to the Sarjeant, Whanganui, and for his unwavering belief in the power of art to change people's lives and the way they see the world.

Our deepest sympathies to Raewyn, Bill's wife, our former colleague, and friend. Your care of Bill over the last couple of years is nothing short of extraordinary. To Bill's three children and three stepchildren and his wider extended family and friends, we are so sorry for your loss. Rest in peace dear Bill; you'll always be with us, stitched into the stone, present in the dome and in the bays of the wings.

A private family farewell has been held, and a memorial service will be held at the Sarjeant Gallery Te Whare o Rehua



Former Sarjeant Gallery director Bill Milbank Whanganui when it reopened in 2024. Greg Donson - Sarjeant Gallery Curator & Public Programmes Manager - supplied

WHAT'S ON IN THE COMMUNITY

About to look at life changes? I am a Psychic Numerologist, and I can help you with decisions. I have felt blessed over the last 40+ years: guiding client s towards their self-confidence. My abilities include, "Search and Rescue (humans and animals... NOT gumboots or phones!) Sandra Singleton, Whanganui Districts. 06-345-3803.

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 St, 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) Friday, Gonville Library meeting room, 12.30pm. Ph 0508 425 266.

Deaf Access Centre On 25th November, 1.00pm-4.00pm. We will gather together for a catch up and news. New deaf or hard of hearing people are welcome to join the fun. Please bring small plates of finger foods to share. Where: 48 Alma Road, Wanganui.

Fundraiser All-Craft Garage Sale Saturday, 18th November, All-Craft Garage Sale at the Blind Centre, 102 Peat Street, 10am-2pm. Raising funds for the Whanganui Blind and Partially Sighted Craft Group. All goods are newly made and all very reasonably priced.

Porridge Watson - What's On This Week Thursday Quiz Night, 7pm. Friday, Soft Bait Tour, 8pm. Saturday, 4TH Birthday Party! (see page 5 of the RCP for details) Tickets on Eventfinda. Sunday, IJD Jazz (see page 25 of the RCP for details).

MIST Mental illness Survivors Team

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

Theosophy Public Meeting Usually held 2nd Sunday Monthly. Where: Community Arts Centre, back river entrance in the Awa Room. When: 2pm What: Presentation with respectful discussion and communication. Purpose: No dogma, 'Do no harm', explore ancient wisdom to develop self with the universe. Email: theosophywhanganui@gmail.com

The Whanganui Community Choir's Concert - "Together Hand in Hand"

On 25th November at Central Baptist Church, cnr Dublin & Wicksteed Streets at 2pm, followed by afternoon tea. Musical Director - Caleb Arthur; Adults \$20.00, Seniors \$15.00, Students \$10.00, Children under 12 Free. Family Ticket \$50.00 (2 adults and 2 students over 12) Tickets available from choir members or at the door, or contact: Edwyna 344 7974 / 027 360 1335. Guest artist is Sophie Toyne - NZ Country Music Junior Entertainer of the Year 2023.

Wanganui Spiritual & Awareness Centre

Meetings 7pm Sundays, Quaker Meeting Rooms, 256 Wicksteed St. Local or visiting speakers or mediums sharing their spiritual gifts. Join our healing circle, take a raffle, stay for supper and chat. Everyone is welcome. Koha appreciated. See our Facebook page for details. Ph: 027-697-6308.

Yoga Classes Quaker Meeting House, 256 Wicksteed Street. Monday Gentle Class Beginners, Wednesday Intermediate. \$10.00 per class. Mats provided, first class free. Bring a friend and give Yoga a try. Kathy - kgreensides@hotmail.com 021 0853 7436

Recent Bereavements

- Sadly passed away recently...*
- Trevor John BARNES**, on 12 November 2023, aged 93 years.
 - Frances Josephine (Jo)(Sr Francesca) BOURKE**, on 10 November 2023, aged 79 years.
 - Stanley Raymond BATT-BROWN**, on 4 November 2023, aged 80 years.
 - Valerie Vivienne DUNCAN**, on 7 November 2023, aged 91 years.
 - David Clarkson (Rigger) MOSS**, on 8 November 2023, aged 79 years.
 - Elizabeth Jean NIALS**, on 3 November 2023, aged 93 years.
 - Catherine Christina (Cathy) WARD**, on 27 October 2023.

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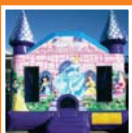
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REVIEWS: Latest Books

in the District Library

In the Seeing Hands of Others – Nat Ogle

You are about to enter a novel formed of documents and evidence. Here is the blog of a nurse on a dialysis ward attempting to live in the aftermath of bringing a rape trial to court in which the defendant was exonerated.

Be Your Best Self: Ten life changing ideas to reach your full potential

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– Rebekah Ballagh

Covering everything from your inner critic to perfectionism, self-sabotage and procrastination,

soothing your nervous system to limiting beliefs, this book is here to guide you.

Promise Me – Jill Mansell

Suddenly Lou has to start over. The last thing Lou wants is to move to a tiny Cotswolds village and she certainly doesn't intend to work for curmudgeonly eighty-year-old Edgar Allsopp. But Edgar is about to make her the kind of promise nobody could ignore. In return, she secretly vows to help him fall in love with life again.

The Drinking Game – Guyon Espiner

Four years ago, investigative journalist Guyon Espiner, gave up drinking alcohol. He had been a heavy, yet controlled drinker since his teens – abstaining three

nights a week but making up for it the other four. One morning he woke up after a big night and decided he'd had enough and quit.

These books are available at all good bookstores, and of course, Whanganui District Library.



SITUATIONS VACANT



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Position to commence, beginning of Term 1 with actual date negotiable.

For application information and job description, please email the school principal sheenas@duriehill.school.nz

Applications close at 5pm Friday 1 December

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AUTOMOBILE TECHNICAL POSITION

Suzuki New Zealand Ltd is the National Distributor for Suzuki Automobiles and is based in Whanganui. We currently have a full time vacancy in our Whanganui Office within the Automobile Service Department operation for a motivated and hard working person.

Key Responsibilities for this role include:

- Technical assistance to the Suzuki Automobile Dealer Network
- Providing email and phone assistance to retail customers where required
- Regular visits to the Suzuki Dealer network
- Reporting to management, both in NZ and Suzuki Motor Corporation
- Focus on Customer Retention improvement
- Occasional hands-on mechanical work
- Assisting with Dealer Training

Key Attributes for this role include:

- Good technical capability or qualification within the automotive trades
- Good IT skills, (general computer, diagnostic software & Smartphone connectivity)
- Excellent communication skills (able to listen and ask the right questions)
- Ability to work as part of a team
- Customer service focus
- A qualification in any branch of automotive engineering would be an advantage

We are looking for someone who wants to take the next step in the automotive industry and can learn and grow with this challenging role. A results focus and commitment to the goals of the wider organisation are critical for the success of this position.

Please submit your CV and covering letter to email
Service-vacancy@suzuki.co.nz
Applications close: 1 December 2023



PUBLIC NOTICE

SECTION 101 SALE AND SUPPLY OF ALCOHOL ACT 2012

Ambrosia Delicatessen Company Limited, 63a Ridgway Street, Whanganui 4500, has made application to the District Licensing Committee at Whanganui for the renewal of an On Licence in respect of the premises situated at 63a Ridgway Street, Whanganui, and known as **Ambrosia Delicatessen Co Ltd.**

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

The days on which and the hours during which alcohol is sold under the licence are: **Sunday to Wednesday, 8.00am to 6.00pm, Thursday to Saturday 8.00am to 11.00pm.**

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 DLCAAdministration@whanganui.govt.nz.

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

This is the only publication of this notice.

SECTION 101 SALE AND SUPPLY OF ALCOHOL ACT 2012

Supermax Limited, 47 Abbot Street, Whanganui has made application to the District Licensing Committee at Whanganui for the renewal of an Off Licence in respect of the premises situated at 47 Abbot Street, Whanganui known as **Super-value Whanganui.**

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

The days on which and the hours during which alcohol is sold under the licence are **Monday to Sunday 7.00am to 9.00pm.**

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 DLCAAdministration@whanganui.govt.nz.

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

This is the first publication of this notice.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

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BLINDS - Roller & Venetians to order. Free measure and quote. Strath Davis Furniture & Flooring, Ph (06) 345-0883. NEW books available at River City Press, 52 Ingestre St. "From the Sea to the Mountain"; "Whimsical Tales of Old Wanganui"; "More Whimsical Tales of Old Wanganui"; "My Life - Annasophia". TOP range now available of 6 dollar shrubs; Lavender stoehas, Rosemary Blue Lagoon, Teuchrium Fruiticans, Hebes, Orange Day-Lillies, Australian Mint Bush, Felicia 'Blue Jay', plus 6 dollar hedging; Griselinia, Totara, Corokia 3 varieties, Lonicera Honeysuckle Golden Box, Buxus, good variety of Pittosporums and White Manuka. Parnells Quality Tree and Shrub Nursery, 102 Fox Road, Wanganui, phone 344-6645, Est. 1895.

Wanganui Airport Control Tower Restoration Group (Inc)



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2023

Members and the general public are cordially invited to the Annual General Meeting of the group to be held in the Upper Lounge of the Christ Church Community Centre, 243 Wicksteed Street, Whanganui on

Thursday 23 November 2023 commencing at 7.00pm

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The Ice Queen as you have never seen her before

Rotarians from Canada & USA hosted by Whanganui Rotarians

When the Ice Queen played her tune, the kids would run in its direction, hoping that their parents would buy them an ice cream. Now the Ice Queen looks as good as its music with a stunning wrap all over the van thanks to the generosity and imagination of the people at Speedy Signs.



Gemma Barnes, Miles, Tracy, Simon, Cliare London and Recid Torbet

Speedy Signs Whanganui says, "We received 770 entries with about 70 from Whanganui, and we were lucky enough for one of the winners to be from our area." He adds that Whanganui did have one of the highest number of entries, "so that our chances were good."

Tracy Muir has owned and operated Ice Queen for the last two years, and after the competition results were announced, Simon found out that Tracy had some problems with the van, leading to \$30,000 in costs. He is really pleased that such a deserving person was a winner.

Because the summer

and ice cream season is upon us, there was some urgency to complete the design and wrap. The team worked overtime to get the full 60 metres of wraps laid carefully without a hitch.

"The original design was thanks to Miles Ward, but the whole team worked for three and half days to complete what would normally be a five-day job."

Tracy is thrilled with the stunning result, and on the day she picked her van up, she was ready to get out there to show it off and sell ice creams and vegan sorbet, which she describes as "more of an ice block gelato."



Five Rotarians with President of the Whanganui Rotary Club Dot McKinnon (3rd from right) and John Granville, Assistant District Rotary Governor (far right)

Rotary clubs throughout the world are incorporated into different districts. Whanganui is part of District 9940, which includes the southern half of the North Island. This week, Whanganui Rotarians hosted a visit by members of Rotary clubs in District 5080, which covers parts of both Canada and the USA.

This district has more than 2600 members in 59 clubs stretching from Golden, British Columbia, in the northern end through to Castlegar in the southeast of the province and across the border to Washington and Idaho states.

The visit by five Rotarians and their spouses to New Plymouth, Whanganui and Wellington was part of a 'Friendship Exchange' programme for Rotary members and friends that allows participants to take turns hosting one another in their homes and cities. A group from District 9940 visited the North American district earlier this year.

The benefits of the programme include:

- Broadening international understanding,
- Exploring a profession or job in a

different context,

- Building enduring friendships,
- Learn about another region's people, food, languages, customs and history.

All exchanges are paid for by the participants or their districts. Hosts are not expected to assume a significant financial burden.

While in Whanganui, the group visited the Market, went on the Waimarie, visited the Glassworks and Ceramics Museum, the Museum and the Flight Academy, went to Upokongaro and the Papaiti Gin shop, Mowhanau Beach and Bushy Park Tarapurui. They also met with the mayor, met local Rotarians at a BBQ and participated in a Rotary meeting.

At the meeting, they outlined some of the projects they were involved in. They included:

- Uniforms and books for children in Honduras
- Literacy project in Guatemala
- Christmas gifts for disadvantaged children
- Helping build a hospital in Nigeria
- Building and operating a portable home to illustrate to school students the dangers of fires in the home.

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Antibiotics Awareness Week

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

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

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

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



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Council plan to improve performance and address rates affordability

Whanganui Mayor Andrew Tripe says, along with councillors, he's sent a clear message to Whanganui District Council staff that further cost savings and efficiencies – on top of those made at the start of his term as mayor – must be found to address rates affordability in Whanganui. In response, council chief executive David Langford has tabled a new organisational strategy for Whanganui District Council with the aim of making rates more affordable for the community while improving the council's overall performance.

Mayor Andrew "The triple whammy of what I call the three I's of high inflation, interest rates and insurance costs have seen unprecedentedly high rates increases with many councils issuing double-digit rates rises. Whanganui's average increase of 7.9 percent is the highest for a long time.

"Our first draft of budgets for the long-term plan has already indicated that next year's rates increase could be more than 17 percent unless we take action to control costs.

"This level of increase is clearly unacceptable and isn't going to be affordable for our community, so it's imperative the council finds significant cost savings and efficiencies.

Mayor Andrew says he's impressed with the new organisational strategy presented to elected members.

"I think this strategy's going to be game-changing; I've been across many councils and government organisations and haven't seen anything as comprehensive and high quality as this. It's great to see our chief executive, David Langford, and the senior leadership team looking outside the box for ways to make rates more affordable and to improve council performance."

The new organisational strategy follows

a well-established business excellence model and sets out the council's strategic priorities.

David Langford says, "We need a strong ethos of accountability that supports the organisation to deliver excellence for our community. A big part of this is ensuring budgets are being managed in a disciplined and prudent way and that there's a focus on continual improvement."

He says cost-saving measures have been underway for some time.

"An example of this is our vacancy management programme where the leadership team reviews all vacancies before they are advertised – through this process, a number of non-critical roles have already been identified as savings and put on hold.

"We've also reviewed our vehicle fleet, identifying a number of under-utilised vehicles to be sold to shrink the size and cost of the fleet."

He adds that this is just the first stage – the senior leadership team has identified six significant ways to keep rates affordable, with initial targets set against each of them:

1. increasing non-rates revenue by \$0.8M
2. securing alternative funding for \$8M of council projects
3. finding a two percent efficiency saving (\$1.5M after inflation adjustment) for year one of the long-term plan
4. implementing an 'invest to save' programme to deliver ongoing annual savings of one percent per annum
5. proposing \$2M of service cuts or service level reductions
6. identifying \$16M of assets that could be sold to repay debt.

Decisions on service level reductions or selling of assets will sit with councillors.

A review of council-controlled organisations (CCOs) is nearly complete, and this is also expected to identify cost efficiencies.

Property market gets post-election boost

The housing market appears to have found its footing, with residential property values lifting slightly for the third month in a row in New Zealand.

The latest QV House Price Index shows the average home increased in value by 2.1% over the three months to the end of October – an improvement on the 0.9% quarterly home value increase reported at the end of September – with the national average now sitting at \$907,387. It follows three consecutive months of modest growth, including by 0.9% last month.

Just three of the 16 main urban centres we monitor recorded average home value reductions this quarter – Whangarei (-0.4%), Hamilton (-0.2%) and New Plymouth (-2.8%) – with New Zealand's largest cities experiencing some of the largest gains. The average home value increased by 2.7% in Auckland, 2.5% in Wellington, and 1.8% in Christchurch.

The average home value in Whanganui (\$494,202) went up 0.9% in October, but is down 1.2% for the October quarter. That's an 'improvement' on last month's numbers. Value went down 0.9%

in September, and down 1.6% in September quarter. Home sales in Whanganui are now on average 8.6% lower than the same time last year, and 4.3% lower than at the start of the 2023 calendar year.

Quotable Value (QV) operations manager James Wilson said the housing market was increasingly showing signs of recovery, in the context of a low level of sales activity and challenging economic conditions. "Interest rates and credit constraints continue to act as a handbrake for the most part, but we are seeing increasing signs of life across much of the country."

"The property market's recovery has largely been fuelled by first-home buyers in the more affordable areas, but we're also starting to see that recovery spread into our largest urban areas now, up the property ladder and into some of the higher value brackets. Though most people remain cautious – and rightfully so, given economic conditions – we are beginning to see that mindset shift a little.

"Interest in purchasing property has been on an upward trajectory post-



election and as we head towards what is typically the peak selling season, with some purchasers looking to get in ahead of any perceived property price increases. A little bit of FOMO is setting in, with the number of new listings on the market not keeping up with demand. This is putting some upward pressure on prices."

However, Mr Wilson reiterated that the mar-

ket would likely remain "flat to gently rising" for the foreseeable future. "I still don't expect to see a big rebound in house prices given the strength of the economic headwinds we're facing. But considering what we've all been through since Covid first made its way to these shores, flat is probably the best thing given the current conditions."

LIM reports deadline

If you require a Land Information Memorandum (LIM) report before the 2023-24 Christmas / New Year holiday period, your completed application form and payment must reach us by 5.00pm on Friday, 8 December, 2023.

Applications made after Friday, 8 December, may not be processed before the council closes for the holiday period at 12 noon on Friday, 22 December, 2023. You can apply for a LIM report in person at council customer services, 101 Guyton Street, or online.

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