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# Grandfather's WWI diary inspires homeless man to visit 26,530 war cemeteries

BY DOUG DAVIDSON

Fifty-eight-year-old Australian Michael 'Mic' Whitty is cycling from Auckland to Christchurch as part of a 30-year quest to cycle to every Commonwealth War Grave cemetery in the world before VJ Day 2045. He was in Whanganui last week, staying with Terry Carmody, a friend from their days in the Australian Air Force.

So far so good. But it is Mic's backstory which makes his quest that much more compelling. After the Air Force, Mic worked for British Aerospace in Saudi Arabia, earning good money. Returning to Australia he worked in IT until one day it dawned on him, he was already four levels beyond his competence level. "I recognised that

I didn't know what I was talking about." He headed off to the UK doing low stress jobs but admits, "I was back on a beer budget but still with champagne tastes." He got into 'spread betting' - where you speculate on whether an asset's price will rise or fall. On 'Day One' he made £4000 (about \$8,200 NZ). "However, three years later I

had lost £40,000 including my parents' inheritance." He syphoned off money from his employer in the vain hope of using it to recover his losses. Failing to heed the sage advice of "when you find yourself in a hole, stop digging" it was only a matter of time until his fraud was discovered and his employment came to an end with his reputation shredded.

Because of his actions, Mic became depressed and ended up on the UK Missing Persons List for ten months, sleeping rough in the Welsh countryside. "I would have thought that I would have been the last person who would end up homeless. I had to reconcile my current situation with my previous attitude towards the homeless, which was "stop being lazy, get a job - now it was me sitting on a park bench for weeks at a time. It seemed relentlessly endless, and the worst bit was it would be the same again tomorrow." A good friend had stored



Michael 'Mic' Whitty with his bike at one of the many WWI war cemeteries

Mic's tea chest with letters and memorabilia. Mic decided to look through them and found his grandfather's war diary from 1916. It was late 2015, and he realised that the next year would be the 100th anniversary - and what better time to go to France and retrace his grandfa-

ther's movements. It was an opportunity to break the cycle. With the help of friends, he cobbled together the essentials and reinvigorated the confidence levels needed for such an undertaking. As his grandfather did not reach the Western

Front until March, Mic headed off to Gallipoli - by bike and train. A friend had given him a mountain bike, which got him to Turkey and back to France, where it was superseded by an abandoned old French Postman's bike - Both the bike and Mic

are literally on a 'second wind' having both ended up on the scrap heap. When on the Gallipoli Peninsula, he picked up a brochure about the Commonwealth War Cemeteries, so he decided to spend his time visiting all 33 of them - on his bike, of course.

Continued on page 3

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# Check out what's in this week's RCP

Mic Whitty's story is a riches to rags and then saved by his grandfather's war diary, his life becomes meaningful and adventurous (see our front page story). His life would make a great movie as he continues to cycle around the world visiting Commonwealth War Graves.

'A different side to Tough Kids' is a heart warming account of people looking after each other and not competing for something (page 26).

When I first learned about Hobby Horses early this year, I thought it was bordering on crazy. But it is apparently one of the national sports of Finland, and we will have another derby in Whanganui next Vintage Weekend (page 2). We are becoming the national centre for Hobby Horse competitions.

I would recommend attending the talk by the collector Dr. Peter Gilderdale on historical greet-



**Doug Davidson**  
journalist@rivercitypress.co.nz

ing cards. He has some fascinating stories to tell (page 11).

Community Education has some interesting summer courses, including one on Artificial Intelligence (see pages 12 and 19).

A new type of mini-golf is coming to town at the Play 2 Win arcade. If the picture are anything to go by, it will give a new meaning to mini-golf (page 3).

# Hobby Horses returning on Vintage Weekend

Vintage Weekend 2023 featured a Hobby Horse competition and it proved to be very popular, so by popular demand, it will return for Vintage Weekend 2024.

It has proved to be popular not only in Whanganui but around the country. Organisers Tony Sundman of Porridge Watson and Al Goodwin of Green Bikes, plus a number of others involved, say that they have had requests on how to do their own Hobby Horse competitions from Christchurch to Auckland.

TV3 Breakfast has contacted them, and there has even been a request from Victoria University to write a thesis on Hobby Horse competitions.

While Hobby Horse competitions are new to New Zealand, they are widespread throughout Scandinavia, especially Finland, where it is considered to be one of their national sports, with thousands involved.

A 'hobby horse' is a toy consisting of a stick with a horse head that participants 'ride.' Competitions can include show jumping, steeple chase and freestyle and could extend to dressage with a strict set of movements.

It started in Whanganui because Tony wanted something different for Vintage Weekend, and Al had experienced Hobby Horse competitions when he lived in Denmark. They obtained a good range of sponsors for prizes, and the Plumbing Depot made the jumps. They also supplied the 'horses', and there was

no charge for entry. Some young competitors got into the fun of it and came prepared with helmets, boots and even mock horse whips. No prior experience is necessary.

Now planning for 2024, Tony and Al are looking for sponsors. They point out that the MC, local comedian Al Reid, will be repeating the names of the sponsors on the day. You can also have your name and/or logo on a jump, have the naming rights for an event or donate a prize. Arrangements are being made for professional photographs to be taken and put on the Vintage Weekend website.

If interested in getting involved in this successful, developing community venture, contact Tony at Porridge Watson or email hobbyhorsingnz@gmail.com. You can find out more on their Facebook hobby horsing NZ.



Last year's Hobby Horse competition entrant

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# Whanganui wellbeing survey results shared

More than 660 people have responded to a Whanganui survey about wellbeing and hundreds more have shared their ideas with the council at engagement events says Whanganui District Council's policy manager, Elise Broadbent.

She says the council is working in collaborative leadership with Hapū and the wider community to develop a wellbeing

strategy for Whanganui. "The starting point for this has been conversations with our community. Along with Hapū partners, councillors and Mayor Andrew Tripe, we've attended or hosted 20 events in person over the last few months."

Elise Broadbent says the council has interviewed community leaders and social service providers, undertaken social media pulse surveys and held workshops with various groups.

"We've been to libraries, community centres and marae, held a café discussion and community sausage sizzles and attended events such as the Kaumātua Games, the Pasifika 4 Pasifika Expo and the Fest of Cultural Unity.

"We'd like to thank everyone that completed the Vision for Whanganui survey or came to see us and share their thoughts," she says. "We're really pleased with the interest the community has shown and it's been exciting to hear and see so many people expressing the things they love about Whanganui and their ideas for the future."

Project manager, Robyn Vickery shared a summary of the survey responses with the council's Strategy and Policy Committee on Tuesday, 28 November.

She says, "When people were asked what they love and what is unique about Whanganui, the community itself was the standout and many described it as supportive. Te Awa Tupua, the Whanganui River, was central to Whanganui's unique identity. Arts and heritage also featured

strongly in these sections with people mentioning Whanganui's wall art, galleries and vibrant music scene.

"Social connection was critical to wellbeing and the environment was seen as a high priority.

"In terms of the vision our community has for Whanganui, some key themes emerged from the survey data. These were affordability of housing and the cost of living; the importance of the Whanganui River; availability of housing and service and support for the homeless; cultural and

community connection and identity – and maintaining the environment with future generations in mind."

Elise Broadbent says, "These community responses are helping us design a new strategy which will replace the Leading Edge Strategy developed in 2014. We'll bring it back to the community, along with our Long-Term Plan 2024-34, for formal consultation in April 2024.

The summary of survey findings can be viewed at [www.whanganui.govt.nz/vision-for-whanganui](http://www.whanganui.govt.nz/vision-for-whanganui)



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# Unique indoor 18-hole mini-golf course coming to Whanganui, along with 10-pin bowling

When Nick Azevedo developed the Play 2 Win Arcade in Victoria Ave and St Hill Street in the middle of last year, it was stage one of a planned three stage development. The Arcade was first, a mini-golf course is next and the third is a Ten Pin Bowling development on the first floor.

Nick says, "We are trying to get the mini golf installed over the summer holidays but have had some manufacturing delays that are out of our control, but are working hard to get it ready for Whanganui ASAP. We will put some update posts up on our Facebook page as soon as we can."

This will not be any ordinary mini-golf experience, and you will need to see it to believe it. The complex is custom made by a New Zealand company based in Auckland and will be the first of its



Two of the golf holes - one of a rocket where the ball goes up and gets dropped and another of a football goal - you have to stop the goalie saving it

type in the country.

For example:

- There will be a Jurassic Park hole, complete with a dinosaur inside a cage
- A Rocket hole where the ball goes in at the bottom of the rocket and gets shot out
- A witch's cauldron



- A football goal with a moving goalie
  - A windmill and a Ferris wheel, where your ball gets taken around on the wheel.
- Most holes will be par 2 or 3. If you achieve par, you can put it down to skill - if you don't - just bad luck.

Nick says, "This type of mini-golf is common in Europe and the USA. Our target market is everyone. It might be families during the day and teenagers at night." The mini-golf will be open, along with the Arcade, seven days a week, 10am to 11pm on Fridays and Saturdays, and 10am to 10pm on the other days.

Whanganui residents and visitors can also look forward to the return of Ten Pin Bowling, but might not be in place till near the end of next year, Nick says.

## Recent RCP winners

Thanks to all who entered our draw to win one of two copies of 'The Oaken Box' by Bill Costello. The winners were Roy Harkness and Rod Newport. Happy reading. \*\*\*

Congratulations to Patricia Baudet and Shirley White, the winners of double tickets to the RSA's '1940s Blitz Party' that's taking place on January 28, Vintage Weekend, 2024. Thanks to all who entered the competition and to be part of the party, contact Club Metro, enquiries@clubmetro.co.nz, to purchase tickets.

# Grandfather's WWI diary inspired homeless man to visit 26,530 war cemeteries

Continued from page 1

Moving to France, Mic soon discovered that his grandfather didn't move around much; such was the nature of WWI. Instead, he set himself the target of cycling to the approximately 440 war cemeteries between the Belgian coast right through to Switzerland, which constituted the Western Front.

Near the end of 2016, Mic changed the 'goalposts' and extended his list of Commonwealth War cemeteries to visit all the WWI ones in France, Belgium, Netherlands and Germany - some 2000.

He is able to fund himself by doing odd jobs and hosting presentations about his journey. As Terry says, "he had developed a bit of cult following in Germany, a little bit like Forest Gump."

His default accommodation is a hammock with a rainfly and sleeping bag. He prides himself on stealth camping in discreet places but is sometimes chanced upon by early morning dog-walkers. As he's packing up, conversations can go either of two ways; "I'm homeless and sleeping rough" or "I'm into the 9th year of a 30-year cycle ride"

- both essentially true but perhaps only one is a conversation-stopper.

This year, Mic broke out of Europe with a February flight to Bermuda, then onto the east coast of the States before crossing Canada along the Trans-Canadian Highway. "Cycling with a single-speed across the Rockies and prairies was 8870 km - the distance from Sydney to Perth via Darwin."

New Year's Day finds Mic returning to Sydney and after a couple of years of doing at least one loop of Australia, he plans to head to South Africa and back up to Gallipoli before return-

ing to Europe, only to repeat the whole circumnavigation again using a different route. The ultimate goal is to visit all 26,530 Commonwealth War cemeteries as well as any other nation's War Cemeteries that he passes en-route by VJ Day, 15 August 2045 - by which time he will be 80.

Mic says, "My grandfather's diary saved his life. There is a bullet hole in the top left-hand corner. It has also saved my life."

You can check Mic's progress on www.micwhitty.com and follow him on Instagram @micwhitty

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# Box with new and used sports gear placed in Castlecliff Domain for people to borrow and play with



Paula Darlington, Sport Whanganui Sport and Club Partnership Lead, with the Play Station boxes and donated sports gear waiting to be shared with the community.

Play is here to stay with three 'Play Station' boxes set to be installed at parks across the Whanganui region as part of a pilot project by Sport Whanganui and REPLAY.

The Play Stations are designed to store sports balls and equipment such as basketballs, rugby balls and footballs, which are available to be borrowed for casual games with friends and whānau.

Sport Whanganui has partnered with local businesses Ali Arc and Display Associates to design and build the colourful stainless-steel boxes, which will be filled with donated new and used sports balls from the REPLAY programme.

"Local insights show that rangatahi lean towards less structured activities which encourage social interaction. We also wanted to provide a fun, sustainable way to activate our open spaces," says Sport Whanganui Active Community Manager

Jodie Brunger.

The first Play Station will be installed at Castlecliff Domain on Friday 15 December, with plans to gift the other two boxes to the Ruapehu and Rangitikei.

Once installed, the Play Stations will be regularly checked and topped up by Sport Whanganui with balls from REPLAY, a registered charity which collects and redistributes new and used sports gear directly to local children and families that may need help accessing gear of their own.

Denise McLean, Chief Executive Officer of REPLAY says "We are very appreciative of the wonderful partnership Replay has with Jodie and the team at Sport Whanganui. Together we have reconnected hundreds of donated new and used sport gear items back out into the local Whanganui community - all with the purpose of helping keep our communities active. "We can't wait to see

the Play Stations up and going - in summertime, outdoors, with friends and whanau, being active, trying a new activity - we're stoked to help play a small part in this wonderful initiative."

Whanganui District Council have already provided a new concrete pad to allow the Castlecliff Play Station to be fixed securely to the ground, and Progress Castlecliff have offered to help keep an eye on gear levels over the summer break.

Anyone wanting to donate new or unwanted sports gear to the REPLAY programme can contact Paula Darlington at Sport Whanganui on 06 349 2300. Alternatively, people can drop gear directly to any of the REPLAY bin locations around Whanganui: Whanganui Resource Recovery Centre, Rebel Sport, Hunting and Fishing New Zealand and Mitre 10 MEGA Whanganui.

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## Jake Hood wins at Night of Assassins



Jake with Richard Hood, Pete Parson, and Mike Kenworthy.

At the recent Night of Assassins, Jake Hood, aged 20, captured the Heavyweight Ring Karate Title. He fought a tough three rounds against Sage Redit from Milton who took the fight on a month's notice. The fight itself was not a great spectacle of Kyokushin Full Contact Karate as Jake weighed in a bit heavy. There was also the pressure of

the occasion being at home for the first time. It was a good result, however, helping his confidence.

This was Jake's 11th bout for the year, including two losses in Australia, winning the New Zealand championships and the Kokoro Cup. He will have a few weeks off but will be back in the new year with five competitions pencilled in.

**Merry Christmas from the whole AGC team!**



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# Spoke Jam - mountain biking racing weekend planned

# Wanganui Vulcans victorious in PN

Palmerston North's Robertson Prestige International Speedway's 5th meeting last Saturday was all about the Stockcar Teams Invasion. Ten teams for the North Island, including the Wanganui Vulcans (Kaelin Mooney, Dennis Black, Cody Lockett, Bailey Chapman and Rahiri Connor with reserve driving Callum Sturzaker.

Race 5 saw the Vulcans up against the Waikato Raiders, with Wanganui taking the win 150 to 45.

Wanganui's next race was against the Palmerston North Pumas Yellow in race ten, and once again, Cody Lockett and Kaelin Mooney took out the top two spots. The result was 160 to 35.

After 10 rounds, Wanganui Vulcans topped the points with 310 to Wellington Young Guns on 295, Gisborne Gladiators on 280 and Palmerston North Pumas and Stratford on 200 each.

The final stockcar race for the night was for 1st and 2nd places between the Vulcans and Young Guns, with the Vulcans putting in the perfect performance with Cody leading the Young Guns Jayden Bullmore across the line after 12 hectic laps, leaving Cody with 3 wins out of 3. The team celebrated with a lap of honour.

The next meeting is on

26 December at 6pm. It will feature Superstock

Saloon and sidecar cham-

ionships as a boat and caravan demolition derby.



Wanganui Vulcans doing a lap of honour.



Off they go - 2023 event

Spoke Jam, a weekend of mountain bike racing and fun is all set to go on 13 and 14 January at 'That Place.' It will be their fourth competition of mountain bike racing, with the cross-country events on the Saturday and the Enduro (downhill racing) on the Sunday. There is time on the Friday for practice and chilling out.

The events are for all ages and the tracks are 'sick.' (apparently mountain biker slang for good)

Entry includes lunch or post-event feed with beer and non-alcoholic lemonade supplied by local brewing company Roots. (the different beers are named after different tracks)

As Tom Oskam, trail builder and owner, says, "The riding is great with

Mr Scrubbs and some of the old favourites having had a tidy up for the summer." He adds, "We are hoping for a dry week beforehand, but the tracks do dry out quickly."

Helpers include mountain bikers Keith Ramage, Craig Davy and Katie Ramage. Landsar will be there and someone with mountain biking First Aid. However, as Tom says, "In four years we haven't had to call in an ambulance."

They are being supported by generous sponsors, including Suzuki who are supplying a gazebo, a four by four and spot prizes. Other prizes are coming from That Place Jam, Tweeddale Honey and That's It Manuka Oil.

While you can enter on the day, they would prefer people to register beforehand as it would help with

catering and timing of individuals racing. There are camping and facilities are on-site.

All profits will go to That Place Wellness Trust, a charitable trust set up to encourage people of all ages to get on their mountain bikes and enjoy the rides and nature that That Place provides.

That Place is a mountain bike park situated on the banks of Te Awa Tupua, the Whanganui River at 1021 Kaiwhaiki Road, about 5km beyond Kaiwhaiki Marae. It provides mountain bike, running, walking and retreat opportunities in beautiful natural surroundings - minus internet connection, except on the top of the hills.

To book tickets and accommodation go to thatplace.co.nz/spokejam

## Merry Christmas from the team!

Friday 22nd December	7.30am to 5.30pm
Saturday 23rd December	Closed
Sunday 24th December	Closed
Monday 25th December	Closed
Tuesday 26th December	Closed
Wednesday 27th December	7.30am to 5.30pm
Thursday 28th December	7.30am to 5.30pm
Friday 29th December	7.30am to 5.30pm
Saturday 30th December	7.30am to 5.00pm
Sunday 31st January	Closed
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Tuesday 2nd January	Closed
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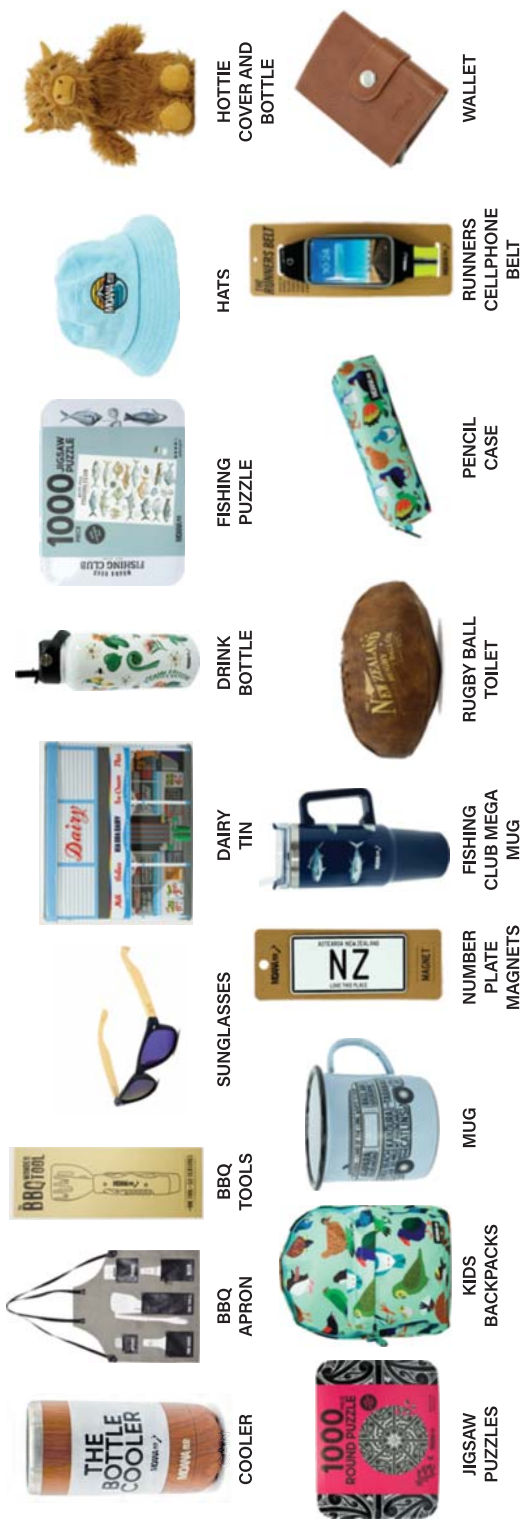
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# Hurricane representatives visit St Anne's School



Peter, surrounded by students.

Members of the Hurricanes management and two players – Peter Lakai and Bailyn Sullivan – met with staff and children at St Anne's Catholic School in Whanganui East on Monday this week. They came prepared with beanies, lunch bags, flags and shirts to give to the children from two classes.

The Hurricanes had sent out an invitation to about 160 schools in their region, aimed at students in years 5 and 6. They asked the students to colour in a picture of a Hurricanes' shirt. St Annes did so, and were one of four schools to win.

Storm Doherty, Membership and Marketing Executive, said, "We

judged all the entries from the school on the basis of time and effort involved."

However, there was a temporary hiccup when it came to the promised visit. There was confusion between St Anne's in Wellington and St Anne's in Whanganui with the visit last week going to St Anne's Newtown.

But they were quick to rectify the mistake and came prepared with all those goodies. No one in the two classes will be complaining.

The reason behind the competition was that the Hurricanes were getting a new jersey design to "represent our identity and our region." They interviewed and workshopped with team management, representatives from the Hurricanes and Poua, and kaumatua Luke Rowe, finding what being a Hurricane meant to former players such as Bull Allen and Christian Cullen and also asking fans why they supported the Hurricanes.

From this they came up with key themes as follows:

- Connection/belonging to a diverse whānau that enables self-expression
- A unique brand of rugby that is: Exciting, Dynamic, Unpredictable, Instinctive, Creative, and Innovative
- Embodiments of the energy and power

of Tāwhirimātea and Hurutea-ā-rangi, the mighty atua (gods) of the winds

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• An inspiring & uplifting heritage / legacy to build upon

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The Hurricanes and Hurricanes Poua see themselves as manifestations of the shifting winds and unstoppable force of a hurricane. Living exten-

sions of Tāwhirimātea and Hurutea-ā-rangi, the mighty atua (gods) of the winds.

"The 2024 jersey hi-kuaua (pattern) designs show the unmatched power of a hurricane and how Tāwhirimātea and Hurutea-ā-rangi inspire our unique and exciting brand of rugby."

Storm says, "Some of the designs came pretty close to the real thing."

But Monday was all about playing rugby with their heroes and getting their signatures.

## Bouquet of the Week - Lesley Stead

If you love books, you will know about Lesley Stead of Paige's Book Gallery and will support her nomination for Bouquet of the Week.

She has helped make Paige's a community book shop, not only by selling books but also by donating books to various schools, charities and organisations who frequently come in and ask for prizes. Lesley now has a lending library of books for book clubs around the region, as well as for the clubs based in her shop.

She is very supportive with book launches, and is always there backing up the Whanganui Literary Festival.

Paiges is also very much part of the Guyton Street community, and Lesley has chaired and championed the beautification of the street, which is now soon to be implemented by the district council.

As one of her nominees says, "It doesn't matter how full or busy her life is, she is always giving of her time. Whether asked to judge for a school speech or art competition, talk to a group of Rotarians, offer much asked for publishing advice – really generous."



The RCP was able to surprise Lesley with a beautiful bouquet of flowers put together by Nicola and her team at the Flower Room.

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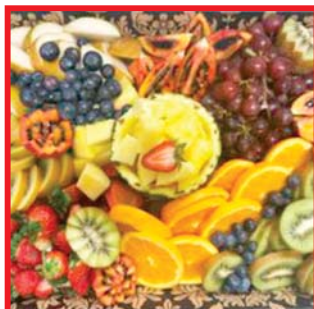


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# Musical jam session this Sunday

# New trust to offer free music sessions for local schools



Whanganui musician and educator James Paul set up a Community Music Aotearoa Trust only two months ago and is having a public launch to create awareness on Wednesday, 20 December, from 5 to 7pm at The Vinyl Room, 56 Victoria Ave.

The Trust is a charity that offers a free service for schools that don't have regular access to recording and music tuition, especially for rural schools in the central North Island. Already over 20 schools in the region, including in Whanganui, are on board.

James and other music tutors will travel with all the necessary musical equipment to hold a full day music wānanga with the students. They will provide coaching on how to play music together in a small rock band format.

The students will experience what it feels like to make music in a rock band format with their peers, coming away with a professional sounding recording of a song that they have created together. This is a free/koha based service for schools.

The initiative is aimed at 6 to 10 year-olds.

James has a Bachelor of Music with first-class honours and has taught music for 15 years both privately and as an itinerant guitar teacher in secondary schools across New Zealand. He has also played along side members of the Black Seeds, Bic Runga, Sol3 Mio, James Morrison and



James Paul and Tim Booth

other well-known musicians.

Along with fellow musician Tim Booth, they offer music tuition and recording packages aimed at adults in their Drews Ave Studio.

The public launch is free and open to anyone.

## A previous IJD Jam session at Porridge Watson

The International Jazz Day (IJD) movement is another vehicle for us in Aotearoa, New Zealand, to celebrate our freedom and connect with each other through live spontaneous music.

IJD is an initiative that began in 2011 when jazz legend Herbie Hancock became a UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador for intercultural dialogue. His jazz institute in America joined with UNESCO to push forward an agenda that highlights jazz music's role in uniting people all around the world. 'Each year on April 30, this international art form is recognised for promoting peace, dialogue among cultures, diversity and respect for human rights and human dignity' (see www.jazz day).

We are the only city in the country to recognise this important kaupapa all year round, and have been actively engaged with major events since 2018. Now, thanks to Tony Sundeman @ Porridge Watson, we showcase musicians playing improvised music on the third Sunday of the month. These IJD Jam Sessions are unpredictable and entertaining. Pianist Chris Dann leads a house band, and local musicians are welcome to step up and join in. There have been instrumentalists playing bassoon, ukelele, flute and didgeridoo. Vocalists, saxophonists, trumpeters and guitarists are a regular feature, including members of our Whanganui Jazz Orchestra.

What makes the music exciting is that it is completely spontaneous, requiring negotiation and communication on the part of the musicians. That is the same recipe often used to create positive change, and the music showcases this process.

Come down for a drink or a snack and listen to some live improvised music in good company. The festive season will be in full swing, and the music is sure to echo our hopes for a happy new year. 'Tis the season to be jolly, with peace and goodwill toward all.'

IJD Jam Session @ Porridge Watson on Sunday, 17 December 6:00pm, No cover charge.



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# SANTA SCHEDULE 2023

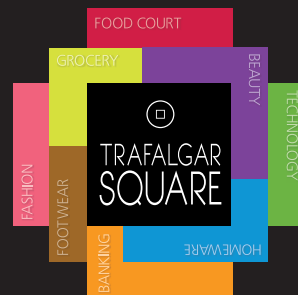
Thursday	14 December	11AM - 1.00PM • 2.00PM - 4PM
Friday	15 December	11AM - 1.00PM • 2.00PM - 4PM
Saturday	16 December	11AM - 1.00PM • 2.00PM - 4PM
Sunday	17 December	11AM - 1.00PM • 2.00PM - 4PM
Monday	18 December	11AM - 1.00PM • 2.00PM - 4PM
Tuesday	19 December	11AM - 1.00PM • 2.00PM - 4PM
Wednesday	20 December	11AM - 1.30PM • 2.30PM - 5PM
Thursday	21 December	11AM - 1.30PM • 2.30PM - 5PM
Friday	22 December	<i>Emailed or posted only</i> 11AM - 1.30PM • 2.30PM - 5PM
Saturday	23 December	<i>Emailed or posted only</i> 10.30AM-1.00PM • 2.00PM-4.30PM
Sunday	24 December	NO PHOTOS

## CHOIRS SINGING CHRISTMAS CAROLS

Saturday	16 December	2.00PM Whanganui Community Choir
Sunday	17 December	2.00PM Whanganui Community Choir
Wednesday	20 December	5.00PM Whanganui Community Choir
Thursday	21 December	5.00PM Whanganui Community Choir
Saturday	23 December	2.00PM Whanganui Community Choir

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# Christmas News



## 100 years of Season's Greetings - 1950s exhibition

Historian, author, and calligrapher Dr Peter Gilderdale has recently returned to Whanganui after spending over 30 years at AUT University's Graphic Design and Communication Design programmes. Over that time, he has collected over 5000 cards in the 'Hands Across the Sea' genre of cards and "only 200 to 300" historical Christmas cards.

Having completed a doctoral degree in the visual history of Hand Across the Sea genre of Edwardian greetings cards, he loves sharing his knowledge about New Zealand's unique design history. He has chosen some of these cards, many of them very rare, to be on display for the first time at the Alexander Heritage and Research Library

over December.

*Peter will be giving a talk at the Library on this exhibition on Friday, December 15, at 2pm and will explain Whanganui's special role in the history of New Zealand greeting card publishing.*

The Hands Across the Sea genre of cards, he explains "was incredibly popular during the Edwardian period." They were cheap, with a picture on the front and were the forerunner to the Christmas cards as we know them. "They started off in the 1840s, grew more popular by the 1860s and became a craze by the 1870s. People kept scrap albums where these cards were displayed."

Messages were limited to five words, with some coming with printed text, frequently



**Dr Peter Gilderdale with some of the Christmas cards on display**

very sentimental. As Peter says, "These were

very helpful to those not confident in the written language."

As cheap folded Christmas cards came in, they became a measure of your network – how many friends you had – and were proudly displayed on mantel pieces, Christmas trees and on lines going across the room.

A.D. Willis, after whom Willis Street in Whanganui East is named, was an early and important New Zealand printer, especially when it came to colour printing. He worked in the Wanganui Herald as a chromolithographer, "a demanding printing technique," explains Peter and took over John Balance's Wanganui seat in Parliament when Balance died in 1893.

The exhibition and

talk will be a very interesting one.



### Christmas

Whanganui Anglicans

## Christmas Eve

**Drive - Thru Nativity**  
2 - 4pm @ Christ Church  
fun for the whole family

*Christmas Carols*  
7:30pm @ Clifflife  
sing-a-long with us

**Midnight Communion**  
11pm @ Christ Church  
welcome in the wonder

## Christmas Day

9:45am St Chad's 39 - 41 Great North Rd	10am Christ Church 243 Wicksteed Street
--	--

*Merry Christmas to all*

## Wishing you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

**Carl Bates**  
MP for Whanganui  
[carl.batesmp@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:carl.batesmp@parliament.govt.nz)



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Saturday 23 December 2023	OPEN 9am - 12pm	CLOSED	OPEN 9am - 12pm	OPEN 9am - 4pm
Sunday 24 December 2023	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED
<b>CHRISTMAS DAY</b>	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED
Tuesday 26 December 2023	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED
Wednesday 27 December 2023	OPEN 8am - 6pm	OPEN 8am - 6pm	OPEN 8am - 5pm	OPEN 8am - 6pm
Thursday 28 December 2023	OPEN 8am - 6pm	OPEN 8am - 6pm	OPEN 8am - 5pm	OPEN 8am - 6pm
Friday 29 December 2023	OPEN 8am - 6pm	OPEN 8am - 6pm	OPEN 8am - 5pm	OPEN 8am - 6pm
Saturday 30 December 2023	OPEN 9am - 12pm	CLOSED	OPEN 9am - 12pm	OPEN 9am - 4pm
Sunday 31 December 2023	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED
<b>NEW YEARS DAY</b>	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED
Tuesday 2 January 2024	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED
Wednesday 3 January 2024	BUSINESS AS USUAL	BUSINESS AS USUAL	BUSINESS AS USUAL	BUSINESS AS USUAL

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RIVER CITY PRESS, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2023 - 11



# Christmas News



## Summer School includes understanding AI Scafit Whanganui helping kids to see Santa

Community Education Whanganui will host three very different Summer School programmes from January 15-19, 2024.

Manager Mel Shaw says, "We offer learning that is relevant for everyone. Our tutors all work in the fields they teach in, and love what they do."

Sandra Morris, recently honoured with the Order of New Zealand Merit (O.N.Z.M.), will lead the Children's Book Illustration workshop. Sandra is a renowned illustrator and author of children's books.

Participants will be guided through the process of transforming their rough drafts into publisher-ready spreads, with ample time devoted to illustration techniques using different mediums and creating a 3D model.

Lisa Lightband will be leading the "AI in Action" workshop, a five-day intensive experience aimed at discovering the practical uses of artificial intelligence. Participants will delve into the world of AI, exploring



Sandra Morris

its applications across various fields. From understanding the basics to hands-on exercises, this workshop provides a comprehensive insight into the potential of AI in our daily lives and industries.

Tailored to each student's chosen field, this course is the only in-person AI training currently available.

For those with a passion for plant-based living, Gina Guigou will conduct a three-day Plant-Based Cookery course. Participants will learn the art of crafting nut butters, sauerkraut, nut/plant-based milks, creating pantry staples, and preparing nutritious plant-based meals.

The Whanganui Summer School 2024 aims to foster a collaborative and vibrant learning environment, bringing together individuals from diverse backgrounds and interests. Whether you're a budding artist, tech enthusiast, or a culinary adventurer, there's something for everyone at this year's Summer School.

Register online at [www.communityeducation.nz](http://www.communityeducation.nz) or email [admin@communityeducation.nz](mailto:admin@communityeducation.nz) for more information. The office is open 10-3pm weekdays, 24 Taupo Quay, phone 345 4717.



The team at Scafit are making sure that no tamariki will miss out on sharing in this special time by providing a platform outside Hakeke Street Community Centre for the tamariki who are sensitive to light to visit with Santa through the windows. With their platform, they are also ensuring those in wheelchairs will also have access to the window display.

A large archway has been erected, and the decorating is well underway.

The window will be a work of Christmas art with lights, colour and a little magic. The team of community members have started work and is aiming to have an array of different decorations and themes to enjoy. Santa will also be in the space on the 16th of December to visit with the tamariki.

Marie Butturini from the nearby Love and Learn Early Childhood Education Centre says, "The magic of Christmas is all about the community coming together and sharing our resources to make the entire Christmas season memorable for our tamariki and whānau."

"Hakeke Street Community Centre was created to support connectedness within the community, and we are overwhelmed with the generosity and amazing community spirit that has supported this year's event. The team at Scafit are just one example of the many who have offered their services to make this

Christmas memorable, and we are so grateful for their support. Ko koe ki tēnā, ko au ki tēnei kiwai o te kete

For more details check out "Free Community Christmas, Williams Domain" on Facebook or "Hakeke Street Community Centre" Facebook page



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# Christmas News



## Unity Food celebrates Christmas with special lunch



The lunch volunteers

Christmas came early for those clients, supporters and volunteers with Unity Food with lunch at the lower hall of the Christ Church Community Centre. Over 50 people enjoyed roast pork, complete with crackling,

thanks to 'Just Zilch' group from Palmerston North and Gina Guigou with her special recipe, mashed spuds, thanks to Whanganui Girls College Hostel, and vegetables.

Dessert was the always favourite trifle, with jelly

cream and 'pavlogs' made by Briea. All guests were given packets of chocolates to eat later.

It was a happy, festive time with decorations in and outside of the hall.

The volunteers were kept busy cooking, serving, and cleaning. As Azian, one of the organisers, says, "It was our first community meal. We loved doing it, and everyone really enjoyed the time. Attendees included those who are homeless."

Unity Food continues to offer free food on Fridays from 3 to 4pm at the Christ Church Community Centre until December 22. They will have a break and will return on January 26.

## Don't let "Christmas Tree Syndrome" ruin your festivities

Whether you plan to put up a plastic or pine tree this year, Sensitive Choice New Zealand is warning people with asthma and allergies about the risk of Christmas Tree Syndrome.

Christmas Tree Syndrome is an allergic reaction to real or artificial trees and can cause wheezing, sneezing, coughs, sore eyes and even potentially serious asthma attacks.

First identified in 1929, when several patients' asthma worsened in a hospital after Christmas trees were put up in the ward, Christmas tree syndrome is estimated to affect about 7 per cent of people.

Sensitive Choice New Zealand spokesperson and pharmacist, Dr Amy Chan, said what is most surprising is that both real Christmas trees as well as artificial trees have their own dangers.

"Real Christmas trees like cypress and pine can trap high amounts of pollen from other plants before they are cut down, and as the cut tree dries out, it releases the pollen which becomes airborne inside the house.

However, she warned that artificial Christmas trees can cause similar

problems.

"Artificial trees can be a safe alternative but, if used year after year, they accumulate dust or mould, which may be invisible to the naked eye.

"Even the most exciting part of the Christmas tree tradition - decorating - can put you at risk too if festive decorations have become dusty in storage," she explained.

### Sensitive Choice New Zealand tips:

Live Christmas tree in your home

- Hose down your live tree before you bring it into the house to help wash off the allergens

- Cut 2.5cm off the bottom so you can water the tree and it will stay in a reasonable condition without drying out too quickly - but remember not to try that with electric lights!

- Make sure to remove your Christmas tree after Christmas festivities are over

- If you notice increased asthma or allergy symptoms, or you need your inhaler more often, move your tree outside.

Artificial Christmas tree in your home

- Give it a good shake outdoors before you put it up inside

- Unpack your tree and decorations outside

- Wipe down your artificial tree, wreaths and ornaments with a damp cloth to remove the dust

- When you pack your tree and decorations away, use airtight plastic bags and sealed boxes so they collect less dust.

For more information on managing your asthma and staying well visit [sensitivechoice.co.nz](http://sensitivechoice.co.nz)

Or download the Christmas Tree Syndrome Fact Sheet



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# Christmas News



## St Anthony's Choir Christmas concert features top guest artists

## Bucket list trips on 2024 Whanganui Summer programme

St Anthony's Choir Christmas concert will be on Saturday, December 16th, at 3pm at the Sacred Heart chapel.

Choir director Virginie Peterson says, "We will have some classic Christmas carols along with some other hymns commonly sang in the Christmas period, including songs by Samuel Webbe, Handel, John Rutter and ST Saens.

Their guest artists this year are Joanna Love and Lisa Boessenkool as a flute duet; both have been involved with music in Whanganui for several years. Joanna is presently an accompanist with Brass Whanganui, while Lisa currently teaches piano and flute at her private studio. She is also music director for the Lyric singers and accompanist for the male voice choir.



St Anthony's Choir rehearsing for this Saturday's concert

Another special guest is Clyde Dixon on the cornet. He started playing in the Brass band at eight years of age and now has played all over the world, including

at the Albert Hall, the White House, for the Queen and new King plus the royal family. Clyde also played at the King of Tonga's corona-

tion. Tickets cost \$15 for adults and \$2 for children and are available at the door or on Eventbrite.



The Bridge to Nowhere is the symbol of an ill-fated settlement in a "valley of abandoned dreams."

If you have the Bridge to Nowhere on your bucket list, the Whanganui Summer Programme is for you. How about the two iconic islands —Kāpiti and Matiu Somes? Or the Raurimu spiral train ride? Or Blue Duck Station? Or the Taranaki Maunga? All of these are on the 2024 summer programme next month, too.

Trustee David Scoullar says there are trips which people have always wanted to do but haven't got around to or found it too difficult to arrange. "No problem, just jump on a bus, and we'll take you there," David says.

The Bridge to Nowhere excursion (24 January) also comes with a jet boat ride through amazing scenery on the Whanganui River. It is the most visited structure in Whanganui National Park and never fails to impress.

The WSP has been taking people to Kāpiti Island (13 January) for decades, and as an easily accessed and tranquil bird and marine sanctuary, it is without peer in New Zealand.

Island lovers can also seize the opportunity to

go to Matiu Somes Island in Wellington Harbour (8 January) to immerse themselves in its interesting history and bird and insect life.

The Raurimu spiral is an engineering masterpiece that can only be fully appreciated by a ride on the Northern Explorer from Taurarunui to Ohakune, and this will take place on 11 January after aborted attempts in 2022 and 2023.

Blue Duck Station (12 January) also involves a

jet boat ride, and a quick dip into the interesting history and current tourism taking place at Whakahoro on the upper Whanganui River.

The visit to North Egmont (18 January) follows on to Dawson Falls in 2023 and is a tribute to the pulling power of the Taranaki Maunga with its network of well-formed tracks.

Bookings are online at [www.iticket.co.nz](http://www.iticket.co.nz) or at the Whanganui isite visitor centre.

# Merry Christmas

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Te Kāhui Matepukupuku o Aotearoa

Thank you for supporting the Whanganui Cancer Society.

We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

We will be closed from **Thursday 21st December at 12noon** and will reopen on **Monday 8th January at 8.30am**

For more information contact us on:  
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### CHRISTMAS HOURS

Closing **FRIDAY 22 DECEMBER**  
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Phone calls and emails will be checked periodically during this time.  
*Merry Christmas & Happy New Year*

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# Christmas News



## 10,000 reasons to back small businesses this Christmas

Concerning data from IRD reveals more than 10,000 Small Business Cashflow Scheme loans are in default, totalling \$177m in debt. Buy NZ Made Executive Director Dane Ambler says shopping and supporting local has never been more important.

"The scheme helped small business stay afloat during the Covid period but a clearer picture is emerging as to just how difficult the current trading environment is."

"With liquidations up 40% on the same period last year, retailers are currently experiencing an exceptionally high rate of failure. Many small businesses were hopeful that there would be light at the end of the covid tunnel by now, but unfortunately that hasn't been the case."

Meanwhile, recent Stats NZ data shows 13 out of 15 retail industries had lower total retail sales volumes in the September 2023 quarter, compared with the September 2022 quarter.

With the holiday season in full swing, Buy NZ Made is reminding shoppers that they can make a real difference to their communities by choosing to buy NZ-made gifts.

"This Christmas, we're asking Kiwis to think about the impact their spending can have on our local economy, including creating jobs, investing in our communities, and in many cases reducing our environmental footprint."

Supplied - Buy NZ Made

## All welcome to Koha Shed Christmas Party this Saturday

The Koha Shed is having its Christmas Party on December 16 from 11am to 2pm at the Koha Shed, 88 Duncan Street.

There will be 500 sausages cooked on the BBQ

along with Pizzas donated by Dominos along with other food donations from Savages Bakery, Fitzies and the Kai Hub.

After lunch there will be a free market of all the

brand new items donated over the year and have been kept to one side just for this occasion and opportunity.

There will be plenty of cover from the sun with

the whole lawn covered in a gazebo.

All children will receive a present with some presents received from St James Church, Whanganui East. There also be activities for children.

A koha would be appreciated as would offers to be a volunteer.

If you would like to support the work of the Koha Shed, you can donate online. Go to their Facebook page for their bank ac-

count. As they are a registered charity you will receive a receipt for tax reclaim purposes.

**Only 1 more paper until Christmas!**  
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Phone 345 3666



A previous Koha Shed Christmas celebration.



**"To Promote Self-Empowerment Through Peer Support"**

*Merry Christmas*

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## The Koha Shed

### Christmas Celebration

16th December  
11am to 2pm

An invitation to you and your whānau to attend this free Christmas party on Saturday 16th December 2023.

Being held at The Koha Shed, 88 Duncan Street, Whanganui East. Presents for the children from 11am, lunch at 12pm, and a Christmas market for the elderly will be run from 1pm to 2pm.

Bring a cushion or a fold out chair for lunch on the lawn. There will be lots of exciting things happening for the children.

We look forward to seeing you all on the day to celebrate!

## Importers Annual Warehouse Clearance Sale

Wednesday 6th December -  
Sunday 17th December

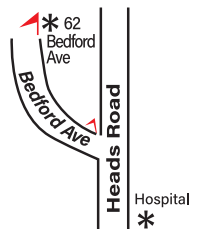
**Start your Christmas shopping now!**

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Items include: whitewashed furniture, original one off cabinets and gates, hand forged iron, silver and pewterware, handcrafted jewellery, garden urns & ornaments and many assorted affordable gift ideas, including end of lines and some seconds.

Hours:  
Weekdays: 9am - 5pm  
Weekends: 10am - 4pm





# Christmas News



## Late night shopping at Marton in lead up to Christmas

### Marton Late Night Christmas Shopping Thursdays to 7.30pm

Country Chic Reloved Boutique  
Fat Rabbit  
Four Doors Down Café  
Go Ahead Hair Design  
Highland Evolution  
Itz A Deal  
Journey On In  
McGuers  
Peacock & Sons  
The Gullies Art Store  
Wards Furniture

Come to Marton and enjoy  
stress free shopping and  
support local businesses

14th & 21st December



#### Marton's town centre

This Thursday, December 14, and Thursday, December 21, selected shops in Marton will be open until 7.30pm. Only 30 minutes from Whanganui, this small retail community nestled among heritage buildings, packs an awesome punch.

Many award-winning boutiques and gift stores are to be found along Broadway and High Street, including: Country Chic Reloved Boutique, Fat Rabbit, Highland Evolution, Itz A Deal, Journey on In, Peacock & Sons and The Gullies Art Store. In addition, Wards Furniture, Go Ahead Hair Design, and Four Doors Down Cafe are opening too.

You can expect to find

a wide range of Women's fashion, stylish men's clothes, unique giftware, homeware, furniture, craft supplies, chic children's outfits, gifts for him, gifts for the home, and, of course, yourself. As an added inducement, there will be many specials offered on the night.

Four Doors Down Cafe on Broadway is offering their dinner menu with \$5 beers, too, to help replenish that shopping energy, and there is plenty of parking. Come and check out the community-funded Christmas tree on the corner of High and Broadway streets.



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# Remember the older community this Christmas



## Caring for our seniors these holidays

There is a lot of pressure on people to enjoy themselves during the holidays. The reality, however, is that many people feel increasingly isolated and unhappy during this season of goodwill and older people can have an especially hard time.

While aging can bring wisdom and experience, there are inevitable losses that even the healthiest seniors face. Loved ones and friends fall ill and pass away. Energy and mobility levels often decrease, resulting in feelings of lost independence and opportunities. Neighborhoods change over time, leaving even those well enough to remain in their own homes feeling lonely. The focus on family, friends and togetherness during this time of year can actually bring melancholy feelings to the forefront.

If you believe that your parent, spouse, friend

or neighbor may be depressed, there are steps that you can take to help lift their spirits. You are probably busy with your own holiday preparations, but it's important to remember what the holiday season is truly about. Simplifying some of your plans will allow you to focus on what really matters: the important people in your life. Use these ideas to brighten up a loved one's holiday season.

### Tips to Enhance a Senior's Holiday Experience:

1. Make a point of actively listening when they want to talk, even if the discussion is negative. An honest and empathetic conversation can help them process what is bothering them, whether they are mourning a loss or coming to terms with new challenges in their life. It may also reveal



why they are feeling down and help you devise other ways to lift their spirits.

2. Remind them how important they are as a part of your life, your family members' lives and these annual holiday celebrations. They may feel useless or burdensome if they cannot contribute to, or fully participate in the festivities like they used to. Encourage them to do what they are capable of and be especially careful not to act like what you do for them is a duty. Show them they are loved.

3. If a senior is in a long-term care facility, check with the activities director and local schools or extracurricular programs to see if they can arrange for children to visit with, or even perform, for the residents. New activities and interactions with younger generations can be very uplifting for a senior who is in physical or emotional pain. If possible, take the senior out to school programs and games, especially if they feature younger family members.

4. Cook traditional baked goods or treats with your loved one, if possible. If they reside in an assisted living facility or nursing home, bring treats on your visits for your elder to enjoy and share with their friends.

5. The most important thing you can do with a senior to make them feel loved and included this season, is to spend time with them. Look at family photos, watch home videos or holiday movies, listen to seasonal music, or do

crafts together. Regardless of what you decide to do together, any time you can spare is a precious gift.



### Alzheimer's WHANGANUI INC

We are here to support family/whānau and any one in our community affected by Dementia/mate wareware.

If you have concerns about Memory loss, Changes in cognitive behaviour, Have had a Diagnosis of Dementia and would like to discuss your concerns, please ring or call in to the office.

Suite 4, 236 Victoria Avenue, Whanganui  
Phone 345 8833



**AGE CONCERN WHANGANUI**  
He Manaakitanga  
Kaumatua Aotearoa

### Age Concern Christmas/New Year Hours

Age Concern Whanganui will be closed from midday

**Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> December 2023**  
re-opening on  
**Monday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2024**  
at **8.30am**

To contact the Elder Abuse Response Service over the Christmas period please ring  
**0800 326 6865**

Age Concern Whanganui Board and Staff wish you a very Merry Christmas and festive New Year



## Physiotherapy Hand Clinic

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Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Safe and Happy New Year

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## Specialist children's chair available

Back in 2008 the Lions Club was approached by representatives for a young girl who had trouble walking and had to be carried. Noel Sexton who was a member of the Lions, said "At her play centre, they would have to stack chair up to enable her to sit at a table. And when the other kids went out to play, she was left behind."

The club approached a specialist chair company in Auckland for help. The requirements were for a mobile chair that would support the girl. It would need brakes on the four wheels, fully adjustable, have both a lap belt and another one over her chest to keep her from falling.

It was built and presented to the girl by the Lions club.

Fast forward to 2023, and by chance, Noel came across the chair, dismantled but still in good order. He has put it back together and is waiting for only one piece – a footrest.

Noel has asked the Lions club, and they are happy for it to be lent to anyone who needs it.

If anyone would like to see it for possible use contact Noel on 0274379027.



## Horizons Notes

A personal view with  
**Cr David Cotton**



I am pleased that a number of the recommendations made by Massey University regarding Anzac Parade Flood Resilience and tabled at the Catchment Operation meeting held in Whanganui on 10 August 2022 have now been implemented. Some key recommendations were:

Improvement to the early warning system and ensuring the residences in and around Anzac Parade know how to access this information along with an improvement to the evacuation system.

To find out more, visit [www.whanganui.govt.nz/anzac-flood](http://www.whanganui.govt.nz/anzac-flood), or call Horizons or Whanganui District Council Whanganui offices to pick up more information.

We have been working on the Long-Term Plan 2024-34 (LTP), which will be released early 2024 for public consultation; there are a number of policies that I recommend you read and give us your views on. One example is a push to increase public service in Whanganui.

Is an increase in the bus service what you want, and are you prepared to pay for an increase in your rates for this increase in the bus services? I will be keen to hear your feedback on this and any other parts of Horizons business that you have a view on.

Christmas is just a few days away as you read this; I hope you have time to get out and enjoy with family and friends the many attractions we have in our region over the festive season. A visit to Bushy Park, with its amazing birdlife, is the perfect location for a day out, particularly if you have family or friends visiting from out of town. Swimming at the many beaches or rivers is always a great way to relax and enjoy the great outdoors, along with some fishing off the North Pole fishing platform, even catching a wave off the Mole.

To keep yourself safe go to [www.lawa.org.nz](http://www.lawa.org.nz) on the suitability for swimming (LAWA) website.

I look forward to updating you again in February 2023 on Horizons matters.

Remember, I am here to represent you, contact me at any time. I'm working hard to ensure we have an affordable place to live, work and play.

I wish you a happy and safe Christmas period.  
Merry Christmas

- Cr David Cotton, Mobile 0274-425-920,  
email [david@tasmantrust.co.nz](mailto:david@tasmantrust.co.nz)

## Stroke Wanganui



Enquiries welcome.

Stroke Wanganui President  
**Judith Massey**  
Phone **348 9554**

Secretary/Treasurer  
**Sharon Winduss**  
Phone **027 294 9897**

Field Officer **Diane MacDonald**  
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# - Benefits and drawbacks of Artificial Intelligence -



The term 'Artificial Intelligence' (AI) has become increasingly popular but, what is it, and how might it shape the future of New Zealand and Whanganui?

Community Education is running a Summer School

**Lisa Lightband, who leads courses on AI at Community Education.**

programme on AI, the only in-person AI training currently available.

But first – what does it mean? AI refers to machines or computer systems that are designed to mimic human intelligence. Unlike traditional programmes that follow pre-determined instructions, AI systems have the ability to learn from data, recog-

nize patterns, and make decisions on their own.

AI has many advantages, streamlining processes and making them so much faster and more accurate. This can lead to increased productivity in sectors like healthcare, agriculture, manufacturing, the creative industries and even the media. NZME, publisher of the NZ Herald and the

Whanganui Chronicle, use it.

We already use AI to solve complex problems. From predicting natural disasters and weather patterns to assisting in medical diagnoses, its capabilities are broad and diverse.

But as AI takes over repetitive tasks, certain roles may become obsolete potentially leading to job

losses. AI systems are only as good as the data they are trained on. If the data contains biases, the AI systems may perpetuate and even exacerbate those biases. With such a huge amount of disinformation online, AI could become responsible for the spread of potentially dangerous narratives. It also raises significant is-

suess about privacy.

The journey into the age of AI is just beginning and New Zealand is poised to be part of the transformation. It is time we look into AI with an open and enquiring mind and discover what AI may mean for ourselves, families, careers, businesses, and the future.

## NEW KITCHEN UPGRADE

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# Quinlan Court enjoying updated kitchen

Quinlan Court in Harrison Street is a retirement complex. Residents are provided with a self-serve continental breakfast, a cooked two-course lunch and buffet food for an evening meal. The kitchen area is central not only to the dining and lounge areas but also to the community of residents.

It has recently been upgraded and made more efficient, thanks to financial support from the Sisters of St Josephs, Auckland.

Two new ovens at eye level have been installed, complete with a gas hob. The old Formica bench has been replaced by a wrap-around stainless steel one. A new dishwasher and steriliser has been put in, as well as extra storage and a new rubbish disposal unit. It is a nice airy kitchen with a pleasant outlook into the front garden.

Lunch includes a hot main meal as well as dessert. A buffet-style meal for the evening is left out for residents to collect. It can include soup, quiche, mac 'n cheese and a variety of salads. There is always fruit, biscuits, tea, coffee, milk, margarine, crackers and bread available, as well as a continental breakfast. The residents help set the tables and help where they can. Another motivation for the upgrade of the kitchen, advises Delwyn, the manager, is to have it as a possible hub in a Civil Defence emergency.



Resident Gail Lewis in the kitchen.

**We wish to thank the Sisters of St Joseph for their generous support with our kitchen upgrade.**

For more information contact us on  
**Ph 06 348 9505**  
59 Harrison Street, Whanganui  
quinlancourt@sosj.org.au

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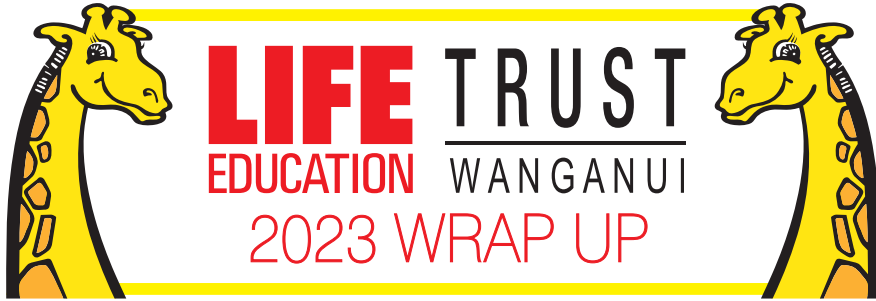
Hobday & Lorentzen Flooring Xtra  
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PH 06 345 5405

## Stihl Shop donates BBQ to Riding for the Disabled



Hayden, Robyn Mann, RDA Manager and Chris McLeod, RDA supporter.

Last week Hayden Bartley from Stihl Shop Whanganui handed over a top-of-the-line Weber BBQ to representatives from Whanganui Riding for the Disabled, who were planning to have it in action that weekend.



Harold with members of the local Police Force at this year's Tough Kids Day.



Harold with Shae Edlin, the Life Education Trust's Administrative Executive, at Cooks Gardens recently.

## Successful Cyclone Gabrielle recovery funding bid for Horizons region



Aerial shot of damage on the Pohangina River following Cyclone Gabrielle.

Horizons Regional Council is thrilled to receive over \$4.2 million from the Local Government Flood Resilience Co-Investment Fund to build resilience to the impacts of climate change and recover from Cyclone Gabrielle. Horizons group manager catchment operations Dr Jon Roygard says the council applied for two packages of work which have received the full funding requested. "The first is an initiative to upgrade flood forecasting and communications resilience across the region which will see im-

provements to early warning systems, updated flood forecasting models, new monitoring stations, radio upgrades, back-up power installations, regional flood mapping and a regional flood vulnerability study. "We have received \$3.645 million for this project which is a significant level of funding and a large contribution to the \$4.98 million needed for this work. Following discussions with Council, Horizons will look to make up the remaining funds required through its 2024-34 Long-term Plan. "The second package

includes \$640,000 of government co-funding for a \$1.2 million programme to reduce risk to people and houses in the Pohangina-Ōroua Catchment. This will involve a range of resilience upgrades through the area including support for work at a number of locations where communities have been at risk, such as the Pohangina Village. "It will also include a contribution to an options assessment for flood protection at Saddle Road and will establish a stopbank at Tōtara Reserve to protect the grounds and surrounding road infrastructure." Dr Roygard says "It relieves some of the financial burden on ratepayers who have already contributed over \$9 million to Cyclone Gabrielle repairs, plus what they've spent privately as well. "The work involved in these packages will roll through next year and is planned to be completed by June 2025. "Throughout the process we will be working with our emergency management partners including our city and district councils."

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## Record year for Life Education Trust

Life Education Trust, which provides health based teaching to schools around the Whanganui region based on the needs the schools themselves identify, has had its busiest year. Over 5,200 children have been taught in 45 schools.

This is educator Mark Keelty's 9th year, and the numbers have increased



Harold tries his hand at the putting challenge at Westmere School's Charity Day

by over 1,000 since his first full year of teaching.

There are over 60 schools in the region, but the programme is very tight, so not all schools are visited every year.

Mark explains that there are five strands to the programme, which are:

1. Relationships and community
2. Human Biology
3. Identity and Resilience
4. Food and Nutrition
5. Substances.

Within those strands, there have been changes and developments. In Substances, vaping is now covered and at an earlier stage, reflecting what is happening in the community. In Relationships and community, cyber well-being is a regular feature. Likewise, in Resilience, adapting to Covid and the changing world, has a greater focus.

Mark says, "Each school might have a different focus depending on their needs and what is happening in their schools. The beauty of travelling with all your resources is that you can make last-minute changes."

Schools welcome visits by Life Education Trust,

and the children love the mascot – Harold the Giraffe. Mark takes Harold to different events, such as Tough Kids, and he says, "The children love Harold, giving him a big cheer and coming up to give him a high 5. It's great to see how they still relate to Harold and that he has had a big impact on them."

**Fundraising**

It is not cheap to run the Life Education Programme, and they are very dependent on the generosity of their sponsors. They also have regular fundraisers such as the annual Quiz evening, which was "extremely successful," raising \$11,700 for the cause.

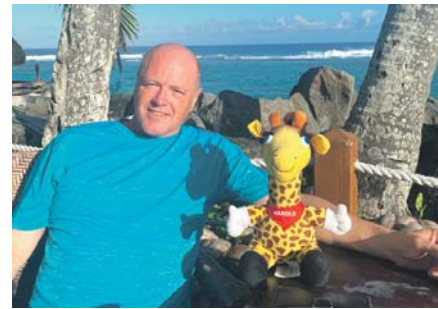
Mark thanks sponsors for their generous donations for prizes.

Life Education was also a recipient of the Westmere School recent Charity Day. Mark says it is heartwarming to see the children raise funds to support the work.

On Friday 15 March 2024, there will be Life Education Golf Day, strongly supported by Property Brokers. Ex All Black Christian Cullen will be there. It will be played at the Whanganui Belmont Golf Course and Mark thanks manager Daryn Hartley for his support.

**Teachers comments**

Schools appreciate what Life Education Trust does.



Harold with Life Education Trust Board Chair Phil Walker, relaxing in Rarotonga during the July school holidays.



Harold with Surf Life Savers. Surf Life Saving and Life Education Trust were the recipients at this year's Westmere School Charity Day.

The following comments are from teachers that we have visited in 2023 when asked if they had noticed positive attitude or behavioural changes in children as a result of their Life Education Visit.

- The children love Harold and respond well to him. The children reminded each other what Harold had said about being good friends and what good friends do – particularly including others and making them feel welcome – being thoughtful of other's needs.
- Thinking before acting – getting more info before making a decision. Reminding each other to slow down and think.
- Self-empowerment of students to ask questions, believe in themselves

through not allowing others to be nasty. Students engaging in conversations about what they are taught.

- The children are talking about how they can react when they get upset.
- I had a child that was about to use negative lan-

guage to another child during a discussion; when the child realized their actions, they apologised and said, "That's not what makes a good friend." The other kids agreed and said, "Be careful; Harold is always watching".

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**Kerri-Ann 348 0339**  
**Bruce 344 5160**

*Season's Greetings*

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**2021 FORD RANGER WILDTRAK**

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**2022 NISSAN NAVARA ST**

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# First of the season's Beach Carnival for Surf Lifesavers

The first of the 2023/24 Surf Life Saving Beach Carnival was held recently at Ōpunakē Beach. It was attended by Whanganui and four Taranaki region clubs, Fitzroy, East End, Ōpunakē and NPOB – four very strongly competitive clubs.

Bec Sharratt from the Whanganui club says, "For a summer sport it ended up bring a bitterly cold and wet morning on the beach but that didn't deter our crew, they all got stuck in, sandy, wet and gave it a go."

"We do these carnivals to try out the skills we are coaching, to meet other clubbies, and be an active part of the wider surf lifesaving region we are in, and to experience a different beach environment to our own."

The Whanganui Club had Juniors on debut at their first carnival along with those is age groups under 8s to U13s.

Each age group has water and beach arena events. Water events start with the U8's as a run/wade/run, working up to a 200m surf swim for U11 to U13s, then a board race (with boogie boards for the U10 age groups). This is followed by a diamond event which puts the swim and board event together as one. On the beach are sprints and beach flags events.

Each club provides lifeguards to form the in-water safety team with Whanganui guards Ethan Bishop, Maddie Buchanan and Pippa Buchanan involved.

Selwyn Baxter has completed his Junior Surf Coaching course giving good coverage of all age groups, coaching with Daniel Comp, along with plenty of parent help.

Brendon Sharratt was on the job for his first day of Surf Official training. Whanganui currently doesn't have any qualified

Surf Officials, so he will be an asset to the club.

"We had an exciting number of placings to take away, but most importantly we had a great bunch of kids out there being active in a way they love."

"Surf is very family-focused. Our families are there for all the kids, which makes it a very supportive day out. Our Junior Surf programme is currently running at capacity with 70 children each Sunday at Castlecliff Beach."

"Our next Surf Carnival is Central Regions Champs for 11-14yrs on 12 January 2024, followed by our own Surf Carnival, hosting the region and beyond at Castlecliff Beach on Sunday, 21st January."

Top placings by Whan-

ganui surf life savers included:

**U8s:** 2nd Beach Sprints - Tomas Poldma; 3rd Run/Wade/Run - Noah Libeau; 3rd Run/Board/Run - Te Rua o Raukawa

**U9s:** 1st Run/Wade/Run, 1st Run/Board/Run 2nd Beach Flags, 3rd Beach Sprints - Aubrie Sollitt; 3rd Run/Board/Run, 3rd Diamond - Maia Paki

**U10s:** 1st Beach Flags, 2nd Board Race, 2nd Diamond - Lucas Sollitt; 2nd Beach Flags, 3rd Run/Wade/Run - Lucas Whittaker

**U11s:** 2nd Beach Flags, 3rd Beach Sprints - Cooper Donald; 3rd Surf Race - Otis Matenga

**U13s:** 2nd Beach Flags, 2nd Beach Sprint - Miles Donald  
**U14s:** 3rd Beach Sprints - Ashton Baxter



The start line of the U10s Run/Wade/Run – Whanganui Juniors are wearing pink vests.

**Wishing all our readers and very Merry Christmas**

## Quinn Mailman is Whanganui's Athletic's Operations Manager

Quinn Mailman



Whanganui Athletic Football Club has appointed Quinn Mailman as their Operation Manager, a new role to manage and promote the club. He is their only full time paid employee.

Quinn has been playing football since he was five. He is currently 23. Joining Athletic in 2015 he was soon selected for the first team and now has 95 caps. He says, "The older boys took me under their wing, and I got involved in all aspects of the club." He volunteered for 20 to 25 hours a week and helped out coaching junior teams.

He adds, "No one in the club is above anyone. We all get involved in helping out."

The focus of the job is to make sure that the club is well-positioned for future sustainability. This includes progressing the number of players signed up. Currently they have just over 500 members.

He is also responsible for encouraging sponsorships and fundraising. This will include an annual golf day at Castlecliff Golf Course. Quinn will also handle their social media, something he has already been doing increasing their numbers on Facebook from 500 to 1200.

Quinn has a Commerce degree covering Finance and Management and previously worked in the insurance industry.

The first team will be playing in the Federation League level this year, but Whanganui's chances of playing at the top level in the Central Region have been boosted by the decision to replace the Federation level with Central 2, which will start in 2025. This will include teams from the Wellington region, providing stronger competition and bridging the gap with Central 1.

Athletic has 8 senior teams and 25 junior and Youth teams. They have started a Fantails group for girls only and also have their 'Little Stars' for 2 to 4-year-olds.

Graze Out

Merry Christmas to all!

Due to Christmas day falling on a Monday, there will only be **1 delivery per week** for the Christmas and New Years period.

**Our delivery days will be as follows;**

Week commencing 18th December - **Normal Tuesday & Friday deliveries**

Week commencing 25th December - **Friday 29th December**

Week commencing 1st January 2021 - **Friday 5th January**

We will be doing a Christmas meal again this year that will be an additional option for the week of Christmas. It will be an XL meal + dessert valued at \$32

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**We wish you a safe and happy holiday season**  
**From the team at Graze Out Caterers**



Jumbo crossword

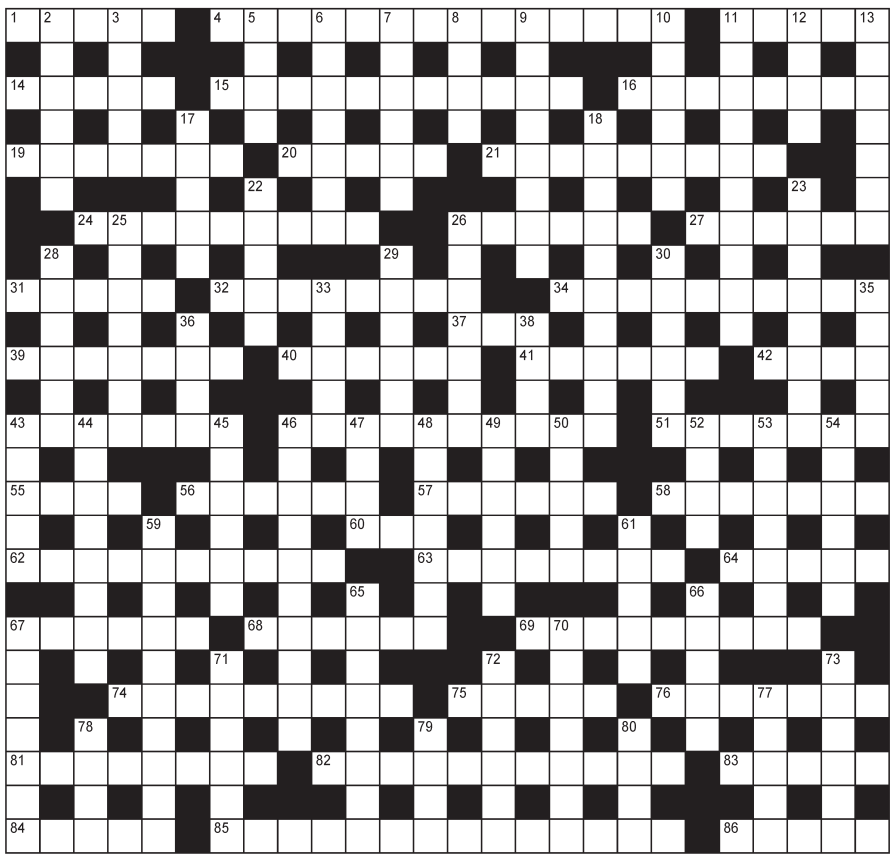
ACROSS

- 1 Fry quickly (5)
- 4 Against my very strongest opposition (4,2,4,4)
- 11 Grinding tooth (5)
- 14 Separated (5)
- 15 Goods for sale (11)
- 16 Black-spotted beetle (8)
- 19 Distinguished musical performer (7)
- 20 Cunning (5)
- 21 Falling off (9)
- 24 A dateline (anag)(9)
- 26 Street performer (6)
- 27 Tooth decay (6)
- 31 Trite (5)
- 32 Statuette (8)
- 34 Laboratory instrument (10)
- 37 Small viper (3)
- 39 Atomic fuel (7)
- 40 Become smaller (6)
- 41 Equip (6)
- 42 Concept (4)
- 43 Make jump (7)
- 46 Fond of company (10)
- 51 Magnify (7)
- 55 Tears (4)
- 56 Connected (6)
- 57 Shrewd (6)
- 58 Will addition (7)
- 60 Edible tuber (3)
- 62 Maker and seller of illegal liquor (10)
- 63 Deviating from the usual (8)

- 64 Keenly impatient (5)
- 67 Deprive of food (6)
- 68 Tot (6)
- 69 Cut short (9)
- 74 Thankfulness (9)
- 75 Prank (5)
- 76 Warn (7)
- 81 Dutiful (8)
- 82 Purchase (11)
- 83 As above (5)
- 84 Trauma (5)
- 85 Blithely carefree (2,5,2,1,4)
- 86 High temperature (5)

- DOWN**
- 2 Become visible (6)
  - 3 Changes direction (5)
  - 5 Opinion (4)
  - 6 Hermit (7)
  - 7 Every twelve months (6)
  - 8 Terminates (4)
  - 9 Scatter (8)
  - 10 Longs for (6)
  - 11 Salad dressing (10)
  - 12 Den (4)
  - 13 Brain-teasers (7)
  - 17 Barrister's instructions (5)
  - 18 Eases (10)
  - 22 Nun's garb (5)
  - 23 Chaos, muddle (8)
  - 25 Novice (7)
  - 26 Wave (7)
  - 28 Attic room (6)
  - 29 Shunting track (6)
  - 30 Extol (6)

- 33 Theatre guide (5)
- 35 Dodge (5)
- 36 Tug (4)
- 38 Horseback sport (4)
- 43 Small tree (5)
- 44 Sanction (8)
- 45 Sufficient (6)
- 46 Spicy biscuits (10)
- 47 Small whirlpool (4)
- 48 Stubbornly resolute (7)
- 49 Chant (6)
- 50 Say (5)
- 52 Recess (4)
- 53 Stir up public opinion (7)
- 54 Unpowered aeroplane (6)
- 59 Know-all (6,4)
- 61 Pollute (5)
- 65 Disadvantage (8)
- 66 Deadly (5)
- 67 Court writ (7)
- 70 Musical performance by a soloist (7)
- 71 Poem unit (6)
- 72 Emergency (6)
- 73 Calm (6)
- 77 Lightweight rope (5)
- 78 Note (4)
- 79 Red gemstone (4)
- 80 Bitter-tasting (4)



**Whanganui**

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**SIMON SHUKER'S CODE-CRACKER Extra 790**

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

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

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

Easy

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

**Previous solution**

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

**Previous solution**

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

**Previous crossword solution**

**ACROSS:** 1 Octet, 4 In dribs and drabs, 14 Ochre, 15 Mania, 16 Imitations, 17 Brand, 19 Owe, 20 Genetic, 21 Menagerie, 22 Senses, 25 Translate, 27 Crêche, 28 Despot, 33 Ballistics, 35 Ohm, 36 Kissed, 37 Foil, 39 Pun, 41 Curtail, 42 Pastel, 43 Insurgent, 44 Eaves, 45 Deadlock, 50 Ox, 51 Assemble, 55 Mural, 58 Pyromania, 59 Dither, 60 Laundry, 61 Pus, 63 Desk, 64 Risque, 65 Apt, 66 Provisions, 68 Allure, 69 Repast, 71 Brimstone, 76 Cravat, 77 Noiseless, 79 Scuttle, 81 All, 84 Hyena, 85 Adulterate, 86 Dregs, 87 Crane, 88 Quick off the mark, 89 Youth.

**DOWN:** 2 Chalet, 3 Exile, 5 Numb, 6 Retreat, 7 Betray, 8 Adore, 9 Despise, 10 Robe, 11 Beaten, 12 Chaos, 13 Receipt, 14 Odyssey, 18 Pianissimo, 23 Claim, 24 Chassis, 26 Related, 27 Complex, 29 Proverb, 30 Salute, 31 Booty, 32 Versus, 34 Swan, 36 Knave, 38 Lathe, 40 Free, 45 Duped, 46 Aerosol, 47 Limb, 48 Candid, 49 Gripe, 50 Old salt, 52 Statistics, 53 Mansion, 54 Larynx, 55 Marquee, 56 State, 57 Leap, 62 Roomy, 67 Breathe, 68 Advance, 70 Avocado, 72 Rostrum, 73 Gateau, 74 Clutch, 75 Plight, 76 Clear, 78 Snuff, 80 Torso, 82 Talc, 83 Star.

**5x5**

G	A	E		
I	I			
U	I	G		
E	E			
P	E	S		

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

Previous solution

S	T	R	U	T
P	R	O	S	E
R	I	D	E	S
A	L	E	R	T
G	L	O	S	S



# ~ Small team with big results for local kayakers ~

A picture tells a 1000 words as Whanganui's best sprint kayakers take a photo opportunity with the best female kayaker in the world, Dame Lisa Carrington.

The Whanganui team featured in many finals with multiple podiums at Rotorua's Lake Tikitapu (Blue Lake). The event, which doubled as New Zealand age group selection racing, was the team's first racing opportunity of the season.

Spearheaded by Olympian Max Brown who

teamed up with Dame Lisa, to power to an emphatic win in the open mixed K2 200 metres, the clubs transition from success over longer racing to the shorter sprint format was starting to show success.

One of the greatest transitions came in the under-16 girls division. After a third placing over 500 metres the Whanganui girls four-person boat (K4) of Addison O'Leary, Zoe Anderson, Hayley Stewart Hayley and Alexis Toy took gold in the 200 metre event, defeating the

stacked Canterbury and Poverty Bay boats in the process.

Having already won four under-14 titles the K4 win was icing on the cake for Alexis Toy. Her clean sweep started on Saturday winning both the single boat (K1) over 500 metres and the two-person with Zoe Anderson. Sunday dawned golden when she repeated the K1 title-winning effort over the 200 metre distance and again in the K2 with her dynamo team mate Zoe Anderson.

The other two members of the winning K4 also had a great weekend. Hayley Stewart made under-16 B

finals in both her single boat events and teamed with Ben Tulloch in the under-16 mixed K2 to take a very commendable 5th place in the A final. Addison O'Leary moved up to the under-18 age group to try and qualify for the NZ Asia Pacific Team. After making the B final in over 500 metres she qualified through to the 200 metre A final, finishing milliseconds from a podium.

Ben Tulloch established himself as a threat in the under 16 Mens division after two close 5ths in the A final of his K1 events, putting himself squarely in contention for the pos-



The team with Olympians Lisa and Max

sibility of selection to NZ Asia Pacific Team. Also putting himself in the selection space was Angus Sewell who returned from

a training block on the Gold Coast to five podium finishes in the u18 division. Both boys will have to wait for potential NZ

age group team duties to be confirmed, but regardless, will be threats for National titles later in the season.

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

### Te Ao Hou Marae community meal

Dear Editor,

I remember our marae in the early seventies when it was a poor relation to our present beautifully cared for Te Ao Hou marae. Like a phoenix rising from the ashes, it is now a much-loved and well-used place. The manager, Geoff Hipango, instigated the present once-a-month community sharing evening when Aramoho neighbours and others from all over the city have a meal together. What a lovely time it is bringing together all age groups to enjoy each other's company and conversation.

I think this idea of coming together on the marae is an excellent one; perhaps other marae may do something similar. Someone said to me, "It is not like going to the more formal occasions held where protocols of the event need to be observed." This evening is all about people. Thank you to Geoff, Dave, and others for making our marae more relevant to our community and giving us all a sense of belonging and caring for each other.

May everyone have a good, healthy, and blessed Christmas. We are so fortunate to live in a city that has a heart and a soul.

- Fi Donne

\*\*\*

### Drews Avenue road surface design

Dear editor,

Issues regarding the Drews Avenue street's surface design in Drews Avenue was raised at a recent Alzheimers Whanganui Board Meeting

The recently refurbished asmd freshly painted building in Drews Avenue are a visual delight, and art designs on the road and pavement surfaces was no doubt intended as further enhancement. However, the style of the design and its mixed colour palette presents some very serious visual and perception issues for a large group of people in our community. Included in this group are those living with dementia or with a brain injury, the visually impaired and older people in general.

The art design on the road surface of Drews Avenue is chaotic; it is very muddled and confusing, with large shapes, wiggles, squiggles, bold stripes, zigzags, and mixed colours tossed across the street. Arrows on the pavement and a wide line running alongside the street edge turns corners, leading to nothing in particular, adds to the confusion.

Depth perception is the ability to see things in three dimensions, including size of and distance form. Any decrease in depth perception causes a person difficulty distinguishing between a flat surface and a raised surface, thus greatly increasing the danger of tripping or falling.

The Ocular System (the eyes) connects to the vestibular organs in the inner ear, which are responsible for balance and orientation. Too much visual stimulation for the brain to cope with affects balance. Again, increasing the danger of people tripping and falling. On top of that, with the surface design being visually too stimulating for the brain, a person with dementia can very quickly become extremely agitated and confused.

A white line for sight-impaired people generally indicates the edge of a step. Confusion reigns when confronted with multiple lines of different colours going in different directions.

Whanganui already has a high percentage of older people, and with baby boomers now reach this age group, numbers continue to rise. Consideration must be given during the planning stages as to how future street enhancements and community projects, including proposals for the Guyton St/Wickstead Street intersection, might impact on older people and the Whanganui community at large. We ask that matters raised in this letter be given careful attention by city planners.

Yours faithfully,

Carolyn McCully, Chairperson

ADVERTORIAL

# Treadwell Gordon fostering legal talent in their own backyard

Treadwell Gordon, the largest and oldest law firm in the Whanganui, Rangitikei, South Taranaki and Waimarino regions, has announced the inaugural winners of their newly launched scholarship programme. The firm is proud to introduce Zeah Brewer, Amelia Bryant and Emelye Brown as the recipients of the 2023 Treadwell Gordon - Garry Spooner Scholarship.

This innovative scholarship/bursary programme was established to support law students from the region's Treadwell Gordon services, who are entering their penultimate year of study. The aim is to assist with the financial burden of studying and help kick-start the careers of local people. The scholarship offers a generous \$8,000 per recipient towards course costs over two years, a summer clerkship and potential employment opportunities in the future.

"Our inaugural winners Zeah, Amelia and Emelye, all hail from our regions, and studying at Victoria University and the University of Otago. They displayed an impressive level of dedication and passion for the legal profession," said Simon Badger, Managing Director at Treadwell Gordon.

"It was pleasing to see the calibre of applicants was extremely high, making the selection process challenging. However, we believe these three students embody the values of Treadwell Gordon and will make a significant contribution to our firm in the future and the communities we serve."

Having joined Treadwell Gordon in November, recipient Amelia Bryant said, "I am very grateful to have been selected for the scholarship where I have been given the opportunity to work alongside and learn from an amazing group of professionals who work so closely as a team on issues that are relevant to my rural roots" said Amelia Bryant, scholarship recipient.



"It is thrilling to see such a well distinguished firm such as Treadwell Gordon investing in the next generation of local aspiring lawyers. There are no other opportunities currently available for law students in the region, so it feels great to be locally recognised in this regard. I have enjoyed working alongside such a professional and accomplished team thus far and am especially grateful to receive such a generous contribution to my final year of legal studies!" said fellow scholarship recipient Emelye Brown.

Treadwell Gordon has a rich history dating back to 1869 and is deeply rooted in the community. This scholarship programme is yet another way the firm is giving back, supporting local talent and driving the future of law within the Whanganui, Rangitikei, South Taranaki and Waimarino regions.

"We see this as a unique opportunity to turn the tables and offer local students a foot in the door, breaking down the barriers they often face when seeking roles in the city," added Badger. "It's a privilege to support these aspiring lawyers and we look forward to seeing their careers flourish in the coming years."

For more information about the Treadwell Gordon Scholarship programme, visit [www.treadwellgordon.co.nz/scholarship](http://www.treadwellgordon.co.nz/scholarship)

#### ABOUT TREADWELL GORDON:

Treadwell Gordon is a mid-sized law firm based in the central New Zealand, servicing the Whanganui, Rangitikei, South Taranaki and Waimarino regions. With a history dating back over 150 years, Treadwell Gordon is the largest firm in these regions, offering a broad range of legal services.



Our offices are closed from Thursday 21 December and re-open on Monday 8 January 2024.

Warmest wishes for a joyous festive season.  
Happy holidays from the Treadwell Gordon team.

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## Wanganui Bowling Club installs new Tiger Web Turf - green named in honour of Cynthia Adams

Over two years ago, the Wanganui Bowling Club in Nelson Street experienced 48 hours of continuous rain. The drains couldn't take it, and the rainwater overflowed the green and was ¾ up on the bank.

President Russell Spence explains what happened next. "Parts of the Tiger Turf and the green underlay had raised up with pieces floating on the top. About a third of the underlay was washed away. We were left with only five of the eight bowling pitches."

The club decided to install a Tiger Web matting green, recommended by Bowls New Zealand. After the insurance payout and successful grant applications, the club was close to meeting the \$220,000 cost and this was achieved by some donations from club members.

However, as Russell explains, "the installers discovered a 90-year-old concrete plinth underneath and in the way and so a wooden one had to be built around it." That wasn't all. The drainage system was blocked. It had been put in about 20 to 25 years ago, and it was cheaper to lay a new system than to try to clean it out. This meant another \$25,000 to be raised.

The installation was very quick, starting on the 19 September and taking 7 weeks. It has been tested and "is running very good indeed."

The huge advantage over a grass green is that the Tiger Web is open 24/7 all year round and grass maintenance is much more expensive. It is kept clean using a vacuum cleaner and a leaf blower. There is no longer any need for chemicals, which can seep into the sub soil.

"There is very little variation in the speed of the green," Russell says. "The suggested life span is around 15 years, but we've seen other similar greens 25 years on and still looking good."

The formal opening on Sunday 3 December, produced a big surprise to at least one person as it had been kept a secret that the new greens were to be called the Cynthia Adams Green as a mark of respect to the contribution that Cynthia has made over the years. It came as a wonderful surprise to her.

"The club is the 3rd oldest surviving bowling club in New Zealand," advises Russell having started in 1886 in St Hill Street, next to the Grand Hotel. It moved to Nelson Street in the early 1900s. At the opening they used a silver jack and a wooden bowling ball from 1888.



Creating the new green



Cynthia Adams

## A different side to Tough Kids

On the Thursday morning before Tough Kids on the Friday, Sport Whanganui organised a Quiet Hour for kids challenged in different areas, possibly with special needs.

The kids were able to do the course, or parts of it, perhaps with their carers and at their own pace. There was no noise or shouting. If the students were not participating at that moment, they happily watched the others.

Jodie Brunger from Sport Whanganui said, "Sport Whanganui helped to create different activities if the person was in a wheelchair and couldn't do the normal one." Two staff from Sport Whanganui work in five local schools, and they came with a group of their students to help by holding hands and generally being encouraging.

Led by Harold the Giraffe and Mark Keelty,

the educator from Life Education Trust, all the kids went to the start line and just went from there, with the more physical helping the others. "It brought tears and smiles. You just had to be there to see it," says Jodie.

Mark says, "It gave me goosebumps and was one of the best things I've been involved in with Life Education this year."

Last year there were 30 to 40 students. "This year, the numbers tripled."

Niko loving the experience. Jodie says Niko found the slide a big challenge last year. This year he went up and down all the time.



## Golf results

### Tawhero Golf results

8th December 2023 Friday Twilight 9 Hole Ambrose: Team: TAJ 30.75, Hau's 31, Out La Wed 31.5.

9th December 2023 Saturday 18/9 Haggie [Stabelford]: Horima Potaka 23, Robert Johnston 21, Dave Johnston 21.

12th December 2023 Tuesday, Putting round 4: Trevor Sammons 14, John Deighton 16, Jean Walsh 17.

Upcoming events: Saturday's 9/18-hole \$5 Haggie Tee off 7.30am-12.30pm.

\*\*\*

### Castlecliff 9 Hole Club

Thursday, 7 December Irish Pairs Gross: Sam McGregor + Tony Hore 100, Mike Meyrick + Elaine Everitt 102, Richard Smith + Brian Quinn 112

Two's: Rawinia Connors

Raffle: Mike Meyrick

SUMMER IS COMING!

Time to get those Heatpumps cleaned.

Healthy Homes compliant with landlords standards  
Those small jobs that need fixing, Hot points, light switches etc



# WHAT'S ON

IN THE COMMUNITY

# Whimsical tales of old Wanganui



## An old well for the Rutland Stockade

By Murray Crawford

A recent news item made mention of the old well which once watered the Rutland Stockade. The plan is to make a feature of the well as part of the restoration of the Sarjeant Art Gallery. But in 1866, when the military presence in Wanganui was dwindling, a Wanganui Chronicle reader drew attention to the dangers posed by the well.

"SIR, - I beg to call your attention to a well situated at the back of the Rutland Stockade,

almost in the centre of the road, and which seems to belong to no one, but a great number of people come for water to it, and the prisoners from the gaol regularly every morning.

Now, Sir, some eight months ago I assisted to pull a soldier of the 68th regt., out of this well, and only that he got so far out of the water that he could shout, causing the dogs to bark, he would have been drowned. The night being very dark this affair passed over, and no one

took any notice of it. Again, about a fortnight ago, in the middle of the broad day, a little child, about three years of age, fell into this well, and had it not been for the exertions of two or three women, there is no doubt that the child would have been lost and might have lain in the well for days without being found.

If the well belongs to no person why not then the Town Board close it up, and if it belongs to that body why not then cause a covering put over it before some one is drowned in it? Most likely some one is waiting the same as in other parts of New Zealand till they get a recommenda-

tion from a Coroner's inquest. And in conclusion I beg to say that I only send you this letter (as I deem it my duty) for the information of those who might feel interested in the matter.

I am., MILES.  
(Chronicle: 9 June, 1866).

**CHRISTMAS GIFT IDEA** - "Whimsical Tales of Old Wanganui" and "More Whimsical Tales of Old Wanganui" books available at River City Press or Alzheimers Whanganui offices. All proceeds to Alzheimers Whanganui.



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## Recent Bereavements

Sadly passed away recently...

**Graham Albert McGARTH**,  
on 10 December 2023, aged 91 years.

**Gregory Joseph (Greg) DUGGAN**,  
on 6 December 2023, aged 63 years.

**Jennifer Raewyn (Jenny) HARTLEY**,  
on 11 December, aged 71 years.

**Damian Peter John KLAIV**,  
on 9 December 2023, aged 53 years.

**John Howard LIDGARD**,  
on 30 November 2023, aged 85 years.

**Elizabeth Richardson ROSS**,  
on 11 December 2023, aged 93 years.

**Susan Mereana (Sue) (nee Hyland) SIMPSON**,

on 7 December 2023, aged 73 years.

**Fiona Margaret STOBIE**,  
on 6 December 2023, aged 71 years.

**Diana Mary (Di) (nee Barnett) QSM VALENTINE**,  
on 10 December 2023.

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

**Art By The Awa**  
Friday December 22nd to Sunday 24th December (9am-4pm). Hosted by the Boring Gallery at the Whanganui Arts Centre, 19 Taupo Quay. A selection of artworks by established Whanganui artists. Gifts for everyone; Christmas and beyond. Textile, mixed media, paintings, stylish, arty garden nesting boxes and more.

**Art Exhibition by Judy Flatt**  
at Community Arts Centre, 16 to 23 December. See colourful geometric abstract designs. All pieces for sale.

## Des Bovey exhibition at Lockett Gallery

65A Guyton Street for the duration of December and January. Originals and prints for sale, along with signed copies of Des' recently published book "Tongariro National Park. An Artist's Field Guide". Enquiries phone Paige's Book Gallery (06) 348 9095.

## 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.

## Porridge Watson - What's On This Week

Thursday DIY comedy, 7pm. Damn Raucous Brass, Friday, \$10, 8pm. Karaoke Saturday, from 8pm. IJD Jam Session from 5.30pm, Sunday. Beer and Burger Monday, Gisborne beer and burger \$20.00.

## Theosophy Whanganui 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](mailto:theosophywhanganui@gmail.com)

## 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.

## OBITUARY - JOHN STEPHENS

Whanganui rugby has lost a notable union life member with the death last week of Tech COB stalwart John Stephens in Balclutha.

Stephens, who served on the WRFU management committee during the latter years of the past century, played a key role as union formulator of the weekly club draws after matches ended in the various grades each Saturday.

Before moving to Balclutha with his wife, Angela, he served numerous roles in the Tech COB club, was president of the union in 1999 and was elected a WRFU life member in 2007.

"He was a fine all-round administrator for both the union and for Tech - very meticulous" was the way six-term WRFU chairman Royce Tunbridge summed up John Tunbridge, who joined Tech on his arrival from Nelson.

He played for Tech as an inside-back,

mainly at half-back, before becoming heavily involved in the administration side of the sport in a wide range of activities, including as club captain and, later, president.

The Tech club, which held a successful 100th rugby and 40th netball jubilee reunion earlier this year before going into recess, last won the Whanganui union-wide premier and Metropolitan domestic championships in 1998 and senior (former senior B) title in 2003.

At the union level John developed into a key member of the junior administration board before moving up to the senior board.

In business he was a commercial traveller and managed a Wanganui food and cigarette company during his working career.

A private family funeral has been held for John Stephens in Balclutha - J B Phillips.

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**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".

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We have 1 more publication before Christmas, on December 21!



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Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas!

# Sports Talk

with Jared Smith

## Oscar Mabin making his name in cricket

He may be born and raised in Hawke's Bay, but in fact is Whanganui Collegiate 1st XI all-rounder and Riverview Motel Whanganui senior team prospect Oscar Mabin flew our flag at the tournament that bridges youth and adult cricket.

The men's National Under-19 Tournament is one of NZC's longest standing amateur competitions and is strongly contested by the six Major Associations each season, including Central Districts which includes Whanganui in the catchment.

The tournament, held at Lincoln University near Christchurch also has the specific purpose of identifying high-performance players, who will go on to represent New Zealand at the ICC Under 19 World Cup, which is held every two years.

Mabin follows in the footsteps of local talent like Henry Collier and Nick Blundell, who went to the tournament and played for the New Zealand U19's, with Collier going on to play at the ICC World Cup.

A tier below Under 19 level, Central Districts Under 17's, has seen the likes of Mabin's current Whanganui squad mates and brothers Shaun and

Connor O'Leary represent, while Brett Cameron captained that side before his other passion of rugby came calling - leading him to an All Blacks test jersey and a fine career with the Crusaders and Hurricanes.

You have to go back ten years to use those five names as examples - the simple truth is we need more young players obtaining this level, if only to bring back what they learn to the local scene, if the brighter lights of international cricket don't shine on them.

Just this Wednesday, we saw the first Collegiate vs Whanganui High 1st XI match played in the better part of a decade, as part of Cricket Whanganui's Premier 1 45-over competition.

More Under 16-18 year olds playing each other on a more regular basis can only re-grow our nursery of cricket talent, which leads to the two most desirable outcomes - a senior Whanganui team we can be proud of playing well at Furlong Cup level,

and a bolter or two becoming fulltime professionals with Central Districts and perhaps the Black Caps.

It wasn't the easiest start for Mabin and his Central Districts U19 squad, who opened their tournament against home side Canterbury, beaten by 23 runs on December 2th.

Mabin took 1-48 from his nine overs as Canterbury raised an imposing 301-9, and then made 14 from nine balls in the middle order as Central Districts were dismissed for 278 with seven deliveries remaining.

On December 3rd, Central Districts suffered a heavy nine-wicket loss to Wellington.

Bowled out for 150, with Mabin the second-highest scorer, making 22 from 41 balls, CD could not prevent Wellington from reaching their total in only 20 overs, with Mabin having 18 runs taken from his two overs.

It got tougher on December 5th when CD faced Auckland, beaten by a record 316 runs when Auckland made 432-9,

with Mabin's figures not that bad in context, 71 runs taken from his ten overs.

CD were then bowled out for 116, Mabin not scoring. On December 6th, CD, without Mabin, played Otago, losing by 135 runs after being bowled out for 215, chasing 350-7.

But the squad then had back-to-back games against Northern Districts on Friday and Saturday.

Mabin returned for the first game and took 1-43 as ND were bowled out for 199, and was on five not out when CD reached 200-6 in the 44th over for a four-wicket win.

Then on Saturday, rain proved a factor as ND received the win via DLS calculations.

CD raised 314-7, Mabin finishing 14 not out, and he was bowling when ND was on 302-4 in the 45th over (re-scheduled for 47 overs) when play was called off.

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CLUB **metro**

## QUARTERLY MEETING

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Eddie White's tree business 'Monkey Business' is making steady progress. He has also bought a new, large chipper which will make the work more efficient. He says, "Many people want the chipped material for their gardens, and we

are more than happy to oblige. Some are also keen to keep any wood cut for their fires." Otherwise, the mulch goes to Easy Earth in Castlecliff for their composting. Eddie says the growing support has been mainly through referrals and returning

clients.

"Many people don't

realise that the end of summer and winter are

the best times to do pruning.

"There is nothing too large and nothing too small for us," Eddie says. "We can prune, shape, and remove as required whether it is a large tree or a hedge or bushes."

Eddie and his apprentice Pou, are keen contestants in tree climbing competitions. They did

the Wellington Regional competition earlier this year. It was Pou's first time competing and he completed every event. Eddie made the Nationals but couldn't make it this year. They plan to do the next Wellington Regional Tree Climbing Competitions in March next year.



Monkey Business owner, Eddie White and apprentice Pou, with the large wood chipper.

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business. The company services both home customers – predominantly the weekend visitors – and

trade operations, and the business has stayed steady even in tougher economic times.

Free use of trailers is available for customers and Sort It Out happily delivers supplies, with just a \$25 delivery fee

for anywhere in the Whanganui urban area. "We've done deliveries all over – Marton, south Taranaki and elsewhere," says manager Dennis Haxton.

Their most popular product at the site is Sort It Out's quality garden mix, with its slow-release

fertiliser. "It is great for growing veges and people love it. They keep coming back and saying how good it has been."

To find out more about Sort It Out's impressive range, check out its website or Facebook page.



Sorting it out – Dennis Haxton managing the landscape supplies company

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