

RCP Person of the Year - Carla Donson

BY DOUG DAVIDSON

Carla Donson, Manager of the Women's Network, is the River City Press 2023 Person of the Year. Her involvement and influence in the community is so widespread that many people in the community will have been impacted by her work without knowing it.

Apart from her work in the Women's Network and especially her organisation of La Fiesta and Winter Wonder festivals, Carla has been involved in over 20 Whanganui community and health organisations in the last 20 years.

The ones that she is currently involved in include:

- With Te Whatu Ora Whanganui – Consumer advisor for Te Pukaea Consumer Forum, Community and Consumer representative on the Care Capacity Demand

Management Forum, for the Maternity Quality and Safety Programme, and the Credentialing Committee.

- Co-chair of the Guyton Group Trust
- Representative on the Safer Whanganui Steering Group
- Community and Consumer representative for the New Zealand College of Midwives, Whanganui branch.
- Senior Trustee of Life to the Max Whanganui Trust
- Representative of the Family Violence Inter-

vention Network.

Her community involvement has extended to Computers in Homes Steering Group, Trade Aid Whanganui Trust, the Whanganui Regional Museum and the Whanganui Repertory Theatre.

Carla has been recognized for her contribution before. She was a finalist in the Westpac NZ Women of Influence Awards 2016, recipient of a Local Hero Medal in the Kiwibank New Zealander of the Year Awards 2016 and most recently a Gold Award for the Judith Timpany Community Contribution at the Whanganui Regional Business Awards 2022.

Carla was brought up in Whanganui and, after studying a Masters in Education in Wellington, returned as "I felt it was time to come home and give back." In 2003 she saw the position as manager of the Women's Centre, as it was known back then and got it. "I had not really seen myself as a feminist until then. It looked like an interesting job. Now I can say it has been the best job ever."

She decided that the Cen-

tre needed a rebranding. "The name seemed somewhat isolating. So, I spent about 12 to 18 months cold-calling people to find out what the perceptions were.

I contacted those in service clubs such as Rotary and Lions, businesses, Māori and those in the community space. The conclusion was that we needed to be more connected and to be part of the community, hence we became the Women's Network."

Following the interest in the one-day events that she had organised around International Women's Day, the idea of a women's festival was born. Carla launched La Fiesta in 2010. Understandably, she says, "I am proud to have developed the longest (and only) running annual women's festival in Aotearoa New Zealand. La Fiesta celebrated 14 years this year with around 140 festival events and 80 festival partners during a month of activity."

It has grown from a week-long festival in its first year to a month, from running programmes on

their own to partnerships, attracting diverse groups, participants, and workshop leaders from all over New Zealand as well as some from overseas.

The RCP takes pleasure promoting many of the programmes with a favourite being rides on miniature donkeys out on a farm at the top end of Longacre Road – "good for the mind, body and soul." (RCP front page February 10, 2022). Following on from the success of La Fiesta, Carla observed how mid-winter brought up seasonal downturns. People tended to hibernate. They needed support and connection at this time. So, she started the Winter Wonderfest.

It will be in its 8th year in 2024 with again a variety of events, with something to please almost anyone – from dance activities to technology workshops, film nights to author talks, craft groups to quiz nights. It is done in partnership with Space Studio and Gallery.

Another programme Carla has initiated is "Women who Lead," in partnership with Sport Whanganui.



Carla Donson

They are relaxed events with the 'leader' interviewed while sitting on a couch. So far those interviewed have included Cath Cheatley of Velo Ronnys, Kiritahi Firmin, farmer and social entrepreneur, Karleen Marshall, Principal of Tawhero School and Kristy Humphries, breast cancer survivor and organiser of the very successful Pink Ribbon Winter Ball.

While Carla is very busy, she makes it clear – "I love what I do. I get to meet so many people from all walks of life." She is a very worthy recipient of the RCP 'Person of the Year Award.'

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Check out what's in this week's RCP

Selecting the person for the RCP Person of the Year is a great opportunity to consider the range of those in our community who are doing such good work. The choice this year was, in our view, obvious – Carla Danson of the Women's Network. Over the past 20 years, she has been a driving force in the community and will be remembered for many things – her list of involvements in the community is extensive – but especially for her long-running festivals - La Fiesta and Women's Wonderfest.



Doug Davidson
journalist@rivercitypress.co.nz

- turning 25 (page 27).
 - To the Winter Gardens for their not-to-be-missed Christmas display (page 18).
 - Looking forward – the Boxing Day racing (pages 22-25) and the Jet Sprints (page 29) and, sometime in February, greyhound racing on a straight track (page 33).
 - And of course, looking forward to holidays. That includes the RCP, which will return on January 18. I've really appreciated all the people who have contacted us with story ideas. It has made this job so much easier. Happy holidays.
- Doug Davidson

Diederik does not let cerebral palsy get in the way of his dreams of being a counsellor

Diederik completed three Counselling qualifications this year on-line with the Career Academy in Auckland. They include Child Psychological Development, Adolescent Psychological Development and a Certificate in Counselling Skills. He plans to continue studying in 2024 while setting up his own counselling services named 'D's Counsellor Services,' with the byline of 'Feel better, do better.'

He has his own email address – ds.counsellorservices@gmail.com and a Facebook page DS counsellorservices as well as a business card. He can be contacted by text at 027 787 8085.

So far so good. However, Diederik has a condition that would not only help him understand difficulties being experienced by clients but would also make communication between them, awkward, at least initially.

Diederik has cerebral palsy. As he says, "Unfortunately, because of cerebral palsy, I am not able to verbally speak myself, but I am really interested

in mental health. Fortunately, I have a communication device that helps me because then I can talk with others and be helpful in society."

"Many people can't imagine me as a counsellor because I have a problem with speech. I thought to myself, how can it be possible to become a counsellor? My theory is a client can meet two times with me who wants to get help from a counsellor and go

from there. I will be contacting them by email because many people haven't got a lot of patience to wait for me on the phone to answer them as I can't speak in a normal way as a normal counsellor would."

I don't want to charge at the moment because I need to experience working life, but I would like to work as a charging counsellor in the future."

The RCP had Diederik on its front page back in

2015. He made it clear back then that he wanted to live an independent life as much as possible. While he still needs 24/7 care, he lives in his own home. He can understand what other people say to him; his only way to converse is through a voice on his computer, via a tap switch controlled by his leg. Understandably, it is a long process.

He has planned out how his counselling service will work. His phone is linked in with his Corrie,

his mother's phone. She will meet with him, explain the situation to him, and he will respond by email. Future meetings can be independent, allowing for privacy.

Another arrangement is to possibly work for another counselling service and he currently attends Counsellor meetings.

Diederik recognizes that setting up his counselling services will take a lot of work, but he is ready for the challenge.



Diederik, with his counselling certificates behind him.

Recycling Centre temporarily not accepting plastic

From Tuesday, 19 December, Whanganui Resource Recovery Centre in Maria Place is temporarily not accepting plastic recyclables after a serious fault was identified with the plastic baler's gearbox. The plastic baler was damaged by the fire at Oji Fibre Solutions earlier this month, but the issue with the gearbox was only identified when further work was carried out on the baler today.

A replacement gearbox has been ordered from Australia, but at this stage no timeframe has been given for the repair – and it may take some time due to delays over the holiday period.

The centre is currently closed to all plastic recyclables but is still accepting cardboard, paper, glass bottles and jars, aluminium and steel cans, e-waste, and scrap metal as usual.

The centre is recommending, if you can, storing plastic recyclables until the plastic baler is up and running again or putting plastic recyclables only into the general rubbish.

Whanganui Resource Recovery Centre would like to thank the community for their understanding and patience.



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Early January events in Whanganui's Summer Programme

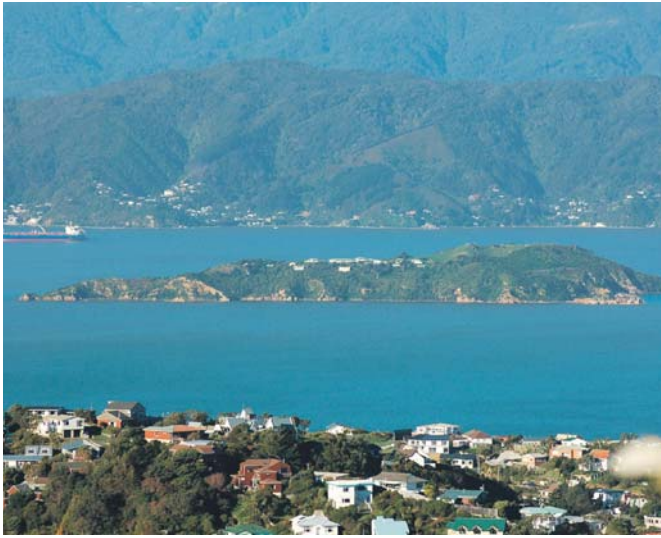
Wednesday 3 January: Upokongaro Family River Walk — It's Back!

We start our 2024 programme with this popular family walk. After meeting at the Aramoho Crematorium car park, we will stroll along the riverside walkway to the Upokongaro bridge which should take about 1 hour. Bring afternoon tea or buy it at the Upokongaro cafe and take time to explore the village. Depart 1pm. Return approximately 3pm. Free. This is a flat walk ideal for most ages. Wear sturdy footwear and bring sunblock.

Thursday 4 January — Magic Marton. New

Our day in Marton begins with morning tea at Marton Park and a chance to explore the town centre, followed by a visit to the local museum with its focus on early days in the Rangitikei.

Lunch will be at the home of Steuart Welch and the opportunity to look at his amazing steel sculptures. Later we visit the Tutaenui Reservoir which has a large-scale environmental restoration. The final stop in Marton is at Royston — a stately



Matiu Somes Island – to be visited 8 January

house built in 1896 for a mayor of the town.

Short walks, mainly flat. Sturdy footwear and rain wear. BYO morning tea and lunch. Depart 9am. Return approximately 3pm. Adult \$31 Child \$15.

Friday 5 January. Kaurapaoa Valley. A favourite.

Although quite close to Whanganui, the Kaurapaoa Valley seems a world away. We loop via Kai iwi and up past Bushy Park, along the top of the watershed and

return down the valley, viewing some of our impressive back country on route. Sid Soulsby of Wairangi Station will share his stories of living in the valley.

Short walks. Sturdy footwear and rain wear. BBQ lunch provided by The Friends of the Whanganui River at Noel Shepherd's house.

Depart 10am. Return approximately 5.30pm. Adult \$51 Child \$26.

Saturday 6 January - South Taranaki Heritage Tour. New

A tour of historic places and landscapes between Whanganui and Patea. Highlights will include the Hunter Shaw building, St George's Church, St Mark's Church, the Edwardian Pearce Family Home and one mystery destination.

BYO lunch, snacks & drinks. Hot water and milk available. Bring a deck chair if you wish. Leaves 9am. Return approx 4.30pm. Adult \$45 Child \$25.

Sunday 7 January -

Whanganui Historic Walk. New

Whanganui has many magnificent heritage buildings and houses and on this two hour walk we will learn about some of them, their stories, architecture and details of the people who lived in them. Meet on the riverbank at the Whanganui i-site. The walk itself is easy and suitable for all ages.

Mainly flat walking. Sturdy footwear and rainwear. Depart 2pm. Return approximately 4pm. Adult \$5 cash Child free. No bookings needed, pay at the start of the walk.

Monday 8 January - Matiu Somes Island Matiu Somes Island in Wellington Harbour has a long and interesting history. It is now home to tuatara, Cook Strait giant weta, sea and land birds. Bring your Gold Card (if you have one) for the ferry.

Reasonable fitness for a short, steep ascent. Sturdy footwear, warm clothing, binoculars and walking poles and sun protection. BYO lunch, drink and snacks.

Depart 6am. Return approximately 6pm. Adult \$87.50 Child \$35. Bookings close on Thursday 4 January.

Tuesday 9 January Evening talk: Walking the Te Araroa Trail. New

Aged 65, Whanganui resident and keen tramper Laurel

Stowell set out from Cape Reinga on the 3000km Te Araroa trail in October 2022. Enjoy the ups and downs of her epic journey in this illustrated talk about walking through a rainy but beautiful Northland to Auckland city. Starts 7.30pm. Davis Theatre, Whanganui Regional Museum, Watt Street. Adult \$5 cash Child free. No booking necessary although numbers are limited to 200. Wheelchair access.

Wednesday 10 January - Destination Castlecliff Beach

Learn what's going on at the beach with a little work thrown in. Castlecliff Coast Care will explain the coastal dune system, show us their plantings, and provide updates on WDC's

proposed Coastal Management Plan and the recent North Mole rebuild. We will also spend time releasing native plants from weeds and mulching them.

Reasonable fitness needed for light work in the dunes and a walking tour. Sturdy footwear and rain wear. BYO lunch though hot and cold drinks and light refreshments will be provided.

Meet at the Duncan Pavilion at 10.30am. Return home approximately 2.30pm. This community event is free, and you are encouraged to join.

In our final issue this year of 21 December we will outline the other events up until late January

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PRODUCE

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Steel Pro Max Pool Set
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Intex Rectangular Frame Pool
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Successful homeless support prompts shift in Council approach

Whanganui District Council is moving to the next stage in its approach to homelessness sooner than planned after seeing successful results achieved by local agencies.

At a council meeting on 13 December, councillors agreed to halt further spending on the council's Taupō Quay homeless hub – and instead reinvest the approved funding towards ongoing wrap-around support services for the homeless. Community wellbeing

manager Lauren Tamehana says Taupō Quay was established as an interim arrangement for those living at the council's freedom camping sites while a longer-term response was developed – and Taupō Quay itself was never expected to be a solution to the issue of homelessness.

"We have completed the work to develop a longer-term response much quicker than originally planned, says. "We have also learnt very quickly along the way that wrap-

around support services have been very successful at placing our people who are homeless. Recently for example, we have been working with one provider who has been able to support 12 people or families to move into sustainable housing."

Mayor Andrew Tripe says, "I firmly believe we can only measure ourselves as a community by how we treat our most vulnerable. Homelessness is a global and New Zealand-wide issue – and it's important that we

continue to focus on our homeless as well as fast-tracking housing in our growing district.

"On the back of Covid, when there were a number of people living in our freedom camping sites, we responded to a very real need to provide services and facilities in a safe location. However, the evidence is showing us that there is a better way forward and this is the right time to shift our approach."

He says the council will also review its District

Plan to enable medium density housing development and look at ways to speed up consenting.

Lauren Tamehana says the council has commissioned a feasibility study on the longer-term options for homelessness in Whanganui. "The report tells us, amongst other things, that investing in bricks and mortar to address homelessness is not the next best step. It should be acknowledged that this vulnerable group and the community have challenges that are wide-

spread and that there are no short-term solutions."

The report prepared by WSP says, "The people with the passion to help are thwarted by short term contracts, multiple funders, and lack of resources in some key areas like mental health support and appropriate housing options."

"We intend to re-focus council resources and work with social service providers to put more wrap around services in place to cover homelessness across the com-

munity," says Lauren Tamehana.

"The Safer Whanganui Housing Reference Group is well placed to pick up some coordination with providers to ensure everyone is on the same page and working together."

Mayor Andrew says the council will continue conversations with the Government regarding funding available from the Ministry of Social Development and the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development.



The current homeless site on Taupo Quay

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
Monday 1st January	Closed
Tuesday 2nd January	Closed
Wednesday 3rd January	Normal Hours Resume

Christmas New Year Hours

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IMPORTANT DATES

TERM 1

Tuesday, 23 January 2024
Prefect Leadership Day

Friday, 26 January 2024
Teacher Only Day

Monday, 29 January 2024
Year 9 & 13 students begin

Tuesday, 30 January 2024
Year 10, 11 & 12 begin

Monday, 5 February
School Closed

Tuesday, 6 February
Waitangi Day

End of Term 1 2024
Friday, 12 April

Tēnā koutou katoa

On behalf of all the students and staff at Whanganui High School, we wish you all the very best for your summer break over the Christmas and New Year period.

We are all looking forward to the beginning of the 2024 school year and the exciting arrival of new and returning students into our school of excellent learning opportunities and future pathways.

Ngā mihi nui
Martin McAllen - Principal

PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER
FOR DECEMBER 2023

Celebrating junior success!

PRINCIPAL'S ACADEMIC AWARDS YEAR 9

Lola Benson	Salvador Mazzieri
Conor Brodie	Owen Murphy
Lily Brooks-Mann	Alex Nesbit
Lulu Dufty	Millie Richardson
Grace Eastabrook	Micah Taunton
Lily Henshaw	Aimee Tetzlaff
Josie Herrick	Connor Welch
Caitlin Lambert	



BEST ALL ROUND STUDENT YR 9
Lulu Dufty



BEST ALL ROUND STUDENT YR 9
Caleb Loader



BEST ALL ROUND STUDENT YR 10
Te Atakura Potaka-Osborne Milner-Skudder



BEST ALL ROUND STUDENT YR 10
James McGregor

BEST ALL ROUND STUDENTS YEAR 9

Lulu Dufty
Caleb Loader



Devika Madhu



Sophie Toyne



Piper Nixon-Gaisford



Jeila Katene-Fata

PRINCIPAL'S ACADEMIC AWARDS YEAR 10

Tyson Barclay	Lucy Hartley
Xavier Booth	William Hird
Ethan Clark	James McGregor
Eric Craig	Liam Meijer
Amy Davidson	Matt Smith
Mae Emmett	Monique Smith
Tahlia Hales	Joel Symes



Annabelle Brown



Daniel McMillan-Steele



Isla Jones



James McGregor

BEST ALL ROUND STUDENTS YEAR 10

Te Atakura Potaka-Osborne Milner-Skudder
James McGregor

SPECIAL CULTURAL AWARDS

Devika Madhu	WHS Cup for Contribution to School Music in Year 9 & 10
Sophie Toyne	WHS Music Cup for Outstanding Achievement Beyond the Classroom
Piper Nixon-Gaisford	De Zoysa Trophy for Outstanding Cultural Contribution to the School

SPECIAL PASIFIKA AWARD

Jeila Katene-Fata WHS Cup for Outstanding Contribution to Pasifika – Junior

SPECIAL SPORTS AWARDS

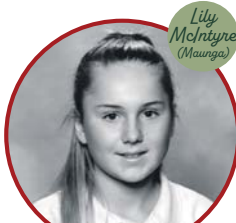
Annabelle Brown	Earle Cup for Excellence in Year 9 Girls' Sport
Daniel McMillan-Steele	Osborne Cup for Excellence in Year 9 Boys' Sport
Isla Jones	Battersby Cup for Excellence in Year 10 Girls' Sport
James McGregor	Coker Cup for Excellence in Year 10 Boys' Sport

WHANGANUI HIGH SCHOOL HOUSE TROPHIES

Lola Benson (Awa)	WHS Year 9 Merit Cup
Lily McIntyre (Maunga)	WHS Year 10 Merit Cup
Awa	WHS Shield for Champion House



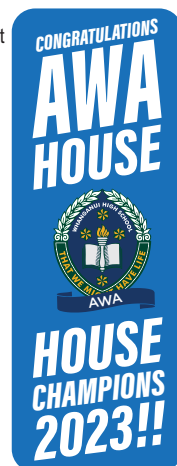
Lola Benson (Awa)



Lily McIntyre (Maunga)

HOUSE TROPHIES

The WHS Shield for Champion House 2023 was awarded to AWA.



— 2024 YEAR 9 ENTRANCE SCHOLARSHIPS —



FRONT ROW (left to right)

English Scholarship / Annabel Dwyer
Sports Scholarship / Deejai O'Brien
Mathematics Scholarship / Jacob Huang

BACK ROW (left to right)

Social Studies Scholarship / Charlie McBride
Sports Scholarship / Bruce McGregor
Cultural Scholarship / Mahalla Hague-Davis
Cultural Scholarship / Arne Leiva Benegas

ABSENT

Ivan Higgins Scholarship / Jada Jukes
Science Scholarship / Mehar Sinha

George Alabaster-Manuka to open a music training studio

George Alabaster-Manuka says, "I have always been playing music." Apparently, he could hum a tune as early as three months old and when he was seven, his great grandmother would put him on her knee while she played the piano.

He studied music at secondary school but didn't like the theory-based approach. He says, "I have been blessed with a talent enabling me to pick up music quickly." He currently plays the piano, guitar, drums, trumpet, and the saxophone, although the

latter needs a bit more practice. Brought up in Ohakune, George is now living in Whanganui where his grandmother Sherron Sunnex, Manager of the Koha Shed is. Only 20 he has been busy doing solo gigs. As a singer-songwriter he does everything from playing music, rapping, and singing as well as being a DJ. "Hip Hop, reggae and jazz have all been big parts of my music life," he adds. He wants to open up a music studio early next year. "I have everything I need - I just need to get a base," although he thinks lessons out-of-

doors, down by the river, could be a good alternative at times. He will take a maximum of only three to four students at a time and "have as little of classroom teaching as possible. His approach he says, "is to cater to students' needs. I will encourage questions and make them comfortable. If they are unable to come that day, it will not be an issue." So, he is offering lessons in being a DJ, singing, guitar, piano, drumming RAP free-style and producing/beat making. You can contact George on 021 194 1124.



George Alabaster-Manuka

Geeta Singh sells Geeta's Spices and Veggies

Geeta Singh opened up Geeta's Spices and Veggies ten years ago at 69 Guyton Street. She has sold up, but the business, under new ownership, will continue to trade under the same name, as it has become widely known throughout the community. Initially, Geeta set it up to sell mainly Indian food as there was no other similar store in the city. Over the years, she expanded the store to include Asian and then Middle Eastern food. It helped that Geeta spoke other languages such as Hindi, Punjabi, and Gujarati, as well as what she describes as 'Indo-Fijian.' The range of stock was extensive, whether it was canned, in plastic, in bulk bins or frozen. She would go up to Auckland on a regular basis to source more and new supplies. She says that she will take the next month to wind down but promises to set up a new business and advises - "watch this space."

Thank you Whanganui for your support over the last 10 years!

Geeta's Spices is under new ownership and will retain the same great products and service.

Merry Christmas
to you all from Geeta's!



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Funding still available for fencing and planting



Horizons Regional Council is reminding its rural community that there is still funding available for fencing and planting through its Sustainable Land Use Initiative (SLUI) and freshwater team.

Horizons group manager catchment operations Dr Jon Roygard says that SLUI recently secured its fifth four-year contract and has plenty of funding available for stream fencing, pole planting, installing sediment traps, fencing existing bush remnants and reverting pasture to native cover on hill country.

“Freshwater funding is also available for landowners across the region wanting to fence off a waterway to exclude stock and we may be able to assist with native planting within retired riparian margins as well,” says Dr Roygard.

“SLUI grants are generally between 30-50% and are available for a variety of works which target erosion and prevent sediment getting into waterways.

“The freshwater funding levels range from 30-50% of the total cost depending on what catchment your property is in, the values of the catchment, and alignment with the funding criteria.

“The amount of funding for this type of work is likely to reduce, as the central government co-funding via the Jobs for Nature fund is scheduled to end by 1 July 2024.”

Dr Roygard says taking advantage of funding Horizons has available benefits both landowners and the environment.

“One goal of this funding is to provide support to farmers ahead of new central government legislation around stock exclusion coming into force. Some of these regulations started on 1 July 2023 and the rest will be implemented from 1 July 2025.

“The benefits from SLUI activities include improving water quality, reducing erosion on land and building resilience against storm events. Other benefits from wider stream fencing and riparian planting include increasing habitat complexity for aquatic life, food supply for native fish, and decreasing erosion of stream banks.

“We really encourage farmers to take up the opportunity while there is still funding available.”

Dr Roygard says the freshwater grants are available to properties anywhere within the Horizons Region.

“However, we would particularly like to hear from those located in Kai Iwi, Whanganui or Horowhenua.

“Landowners who are interested in SLUI funding should call Horizons’ Land Management team on free phone 0508 800 800 to discuss options for their farms.

“Landowners who are interested in stream fencing or riparian planting elsewhere should contact our Freshwater team on free phone 0508 800 800.”



ASK A PROFESSIONAL

Caring for your pets over the holiday season

As the silly season is well and truly upon us, it’s a lovely time to spend time with friends and whanau, enjoy the longer days and enjoy the flurry of events, beaches, parks and culture our little city has to offer; it’s only right that our four-legged furry family members get extra love at this time of year too. It wouldn’t be a veterinary column without some quick advice, so make sure vaccines are up to date, keep them cool, don’t leave them in cars, be careful with feeding extra treats (and be aware of what “human” treats are toxic to pets!) and stock up on enough food to keep you covered for the statutory holidays.

With that out of the way, I hope that you and your pets have a wonderful holiday period and remember we are always here to help – although we are closed for statutory holidays, Whanganui Vet Services and Vets on Carlton provide a local 24 hour after hours service if you have any concerns.



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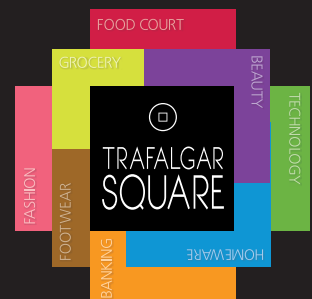
Individual store hours may vary, if you are visiting a specific store, we recommend you call or visit their website or social channels beforehand.

DAY DATE		SPECIALTY STORES	COUNTDOWN	THE WAREHOUSE
Tuesday	5 December 2023	9am - 5.30pm	7am - 10pm	8am - 10pm
Wednesday	6 December 2023	9am - 5.30pm	7am - 10pm	8am - 10pm
Thursday	7 December 2023	9am - 5.30pm	7am - 10pm	8am - 10pm
Friday	8 December 2023	9am - 5.30pm	7am - 10pm	8am - 10pm
Saturday	9 December 2023	9am - 4pm	7am - 10pm	8am - 10pm
Sunday	10 December 2023	10am - 4pm	7am - 10pm	8am - 10pm
Monday	11 December 2023	9am - 5.30pm	7am - 10pm	8am - 10pm
Tuesday	12 December 2023	9am - 5.30pm	7am - 10pm	8am - 10pm
Wednesday	13 December 2023	9am - 5.30pm	7am - 10pm	8am - 10pm
Thursday	14 December 2023	9am - 5.30pm	7am - 10pm	8am - 10pm
Friday	15 December 2023	9am - 5.30pm	7am - 10pm	8am - 10pm
Saturday	16 December 2023	9am - 5.30pm	7am - 10pm	8am - 10pm
Sunday	17 December 2023	9am - 4.30pm	7am - 10pm	8am - 10pm
Monday	18 December 2023	9am - 5.30pm	7am - 10pm	8am - 10pm
Tuesday	19 December 2023	9am - 5.30pm	7am - 10pm	8am - 10pm
Wednesday	20 December 2023	9am - 7pm	7am - 10pm	8am - 10pm
Thursday	21 December 2023	9am - 7pm	7am - 10pm	8am - 10pm
Friday	22 December 2023	9am - 7pm	7am - 10pm	8am - 10pm
Saturday	23 December 2023	9am - 5.30pm	7am - 10pm	8am - 10pm
Sunday	24 December 2023	9am - 5pm	7am - 10pm	7am - 9pm
Monday	25 December 2023	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED
Tuesday	26 December 2023	10am - 4pm	9am - 6pm	8am - 9pm
Wednesday	27 December 2023	9am - 5.30pm	7am - 10pm	8am - 9pm
Thursday	28 December 2023	9am - 5.30pm	7am - 10pm	8am - 9pm
Friday	29 December 2023	9am - 5.30pm	7am - 10pm	8am - 9pm
Saturday	30 December 2023	9am - 4.00pm	7am - 10pm	8am - 9pm
Sunday	31 December 2023	10am - 4pm	7am - 10pm	8am - 9pm
Monday	1 January 2024	Optional	9am - 6pm	10am - 8pm
Tuesday	2 January 2024	10am - 4pm	8am - 8pm	8am - 9pm
Wednesday	3 January 2024	9am - 5.30pm	7am - 10pm	8am - 9pm

THE WAREHOUSE begins 10pm closing from Wednesday 29 November

Trafalgar Square Trading Hours

100 Taupo Quay, Wanganui | Phone 348 0314 | www.trafalgarsquare.co.nz





Christmas News



Operation Blue Santa to distribute 170 food hampers

This is the third year of Blue Santa in Whanganui, and this year, thanks to the Equip-pers Church and the Police Flow team plus sponsors and supporters, 170 food hampers will be delivered to selected families this week. Each hamper has \$100 worth of food and groceries.

Pastor James Roy from the Equip-pers Church (he is also the Police Chaplain) says, "The sponsorship was probably more community/local business based than previously." Some organisations donated up to \$2000, other groups/individuals contributed to the cost of single through to multiple hampers.

While the hampers ensure that these fami-

lies have something to celebrate Christmas with, James says, "It is not just about the groceries. It is also about building relationships. This is especially so when a bit of bridge building is needed, such as with the police."

Some recipients have said in the past that they assumed that one of their children or grandchildren had been in trouble again when the police arrived. They were relieved and happy when the police came bearing gifts.

About half of the hampers have been shared with other community agencies who will make their own distribution.

It has become a well-oiled process, getting all the items to



Packing the food hampers ready to deliver to needy families

Whanganui Intermediate Hall where church members, supporters and the police pack them into the hampers. As James says, "We smashed it out in about

two hours."

He thanks all those who contributed in some way to making Christmas better and to be part of building relationships.

While James is

open to increasing the number of hampers, he wants to ensure that those who distribute them have time to talk with the recipients.

Have you ever advertised in RCP?

Aside from promoting your business, you have helped to get local news out into the community to keep the public informed on local events, with trustworthy information and positive news!

We're sure the public would join us in saying **THANK YOU** for helping our community stay informed.

RCP are proud to be a locally owned and operated family business!

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



Merry Christmas everyone!



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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
CHRISTMAS DAY	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
NEW YEARS DAY	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

For 24 hour veterinary emergencies - Please call (06) 349 0486 or 0800 PET VET (0800 738 838)



Christmas News



2023 Whanganui Christmas Parade

The 2023 Whanganui Christmas Parade took place on Saturday 9 December, starting at 2pm. The Christmas parade is Whanganui's largest annual event and brings the whole community together to celebrate the festive season.

It is also a great way for businesses, community groups, and organisations to showcase themselves.

After the parade, there was a free-after party event held in Majestic Square featuring an energetic music and dance performance by the IPU NZ Kodama Japanese Drum Team followed by the iconic 'Santa's Lolly Scramble.'

It is always very difficult to estimate the number of people who turn out to watch the annual Christmas parade. However, the warmth

and sunshine, and the lack of wind and rain brought people out in their droves and spectators packed the parade route proving that there is still very strong support for the event from the wider community.

In order to encourage creativity and ingenuity in float entries Main-street awards prizes in three categories worth \$200 each. This year the winners were.

- Best vehicle float: The Salvation Army
- Best walking float: River City Filipino Club
- Best costumes: Mosston School



Santa comes to town



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Merry Christmas
This is our last issue for the year.
Our next publication is January 18



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Christmas News



Best vehicle float: The Salvation Army



Best walking float: River City Filipino Club



The Men's Shed and Plumber Dan floats

River City Press

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We would like to thank and wish all our Families, Friends and Volunteers a

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year



Christmas News



BNT has its own Foodbank Drive for City Mission

Christmas Eve drive-thru nativity



Brian with Angela, Food Bank Co-ordinator, drawing the winner of their competition.

All are welcome to the Whanganui Anglican's Drive-Thru Nativity on Christmas Eve. Between 2-4pm the carpark at Christ Church will be transformed into a makeshift Bethlehem with angels, shepherds, wise men (& women) bringing the story of Christmas to life.

Accessible for all ages, this is an event not to be missed. You'll be guided through, in groups of cars, experiencing short dramatic scenes and songs from the comfort of your vehicle.

Come and be immersed in the joy and wonder of the nativity story as we celebrate the birth of Jesus together.

The dramatic scenes are performed by members of the Anglican Parish and the script is



written by Rev. Caleb Rowe, previously a

member of the Royal Shakespeare company in London, U.K.

Two years ago, the family nativity service became a drive-thru nativity to accommodate for COVID-19

restrictions. It was an instant success and so has become an annual tradition.

So, fill your cars with family and friends and drive through any time between 2-4pm.

BNT Automotive, on the corner of Taupō Quay and Wilson Street, recently held a food bank drive for the City Mission. Branch Manager Brian Simpson explained that BNT is part of Bapcor, the largest Australasian autoparts company. Each branch – there are 72 branches in New Zealand – with its 'Blue Army' team dressed in blue is encouraged to do events each year to benefit the community.

The food bank drive lasted for six weeks, with staff and customers dropping off an item of food or groceries. They were encouraged to do so with the offer of going into a draw to win a 36 PCE Took Kit, which was drawn on Friday, 15 December, while the RCP was there.

BNT also give ten grants of \$5000 each to small organisations working behind the scenes to support community from funds raised by the sale of scrap metal. This year, the funding went to a range of organisations helping out in the recovery on the East Coast, following Cyclone Gabriel.

The manager of the City Mission Antony Nobbs thanked BNT for their support.

Last year, they worked in with Caroline's Boatshed to raise \$2500 for Life to the Max, and this year, they decided to have a food bank drive for the City Mission. In previous years, they have been involved in activities such as cleaning up parts of the Whanganui River.

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Christmas News



Whimsical tales of old Wanganui Tips to avoid feeling overwhelmed

Festive season - 1922

The old proverb "The more things change, the more they stay the same," is certainly true when it comes to water safety. One hundred years ago the Wanganui Chronicle (27 December, 1922), having reported on the glorious weather which tempted a large crowd of townspeople to Castlecliff Beach, criticised swimmers who flouted water safety measures on Boxing Day.

"There seems to be too much disregard of instructions by bathers. Every effort is made by the officials to have the danger spots properly marked, but many surfers pay little or no attention to the warnings. This was well demonstrated yesterday."

The first to disregard the warnings, according to the Chronicle, were those who could swim, thus luring non-swimmers into the danger zone. A police



Keep between the flags folks.

constable was on duty at the beach and tried to use his limited powers to make surfers pay attention to danger notices. One swimmer became very indignant when it was suggested he keep to the safe zone, little realising that the effect his example was having on other bathers may have been fatal.

"The members of the Surf Club have been to considerable trouble to test the swimming area, and the least the public can do is to pay attention to the warning signals."

To emphasize its message the Chronicle reported on a near fatal incident which happened

at the beach on the same day, in which several members of an isolated party "got into difficulties and were rescued after much trouble." The offenders (four women and three men who were all named) were given stimulants and sent on their way.

Meanwhile another popular pastime featured negatively in the Boxing Day edition of the Chronicle. Mr F. Foote, former rector of Palmerston North High School, criticised the "orgy of dancing" which had been prevalent over the previous few months. "Boys and girls cannot do their work properly if their energies are used up at social functions," he announced. "I would not cut it out altogether, but there has been far too much dancing during this winter and spring."

"Whimsical Tales of old Wanganui" and "More Whimsical Tales of old Wanganui" available at River City Press. All proceeds to Alzheimer's Whanganui.



- By Murray Crawford

So Christmas is here and it can be loads of fun spending time with family. It can also be a bit overwhelming. A quick technique to relax or de-stress is the 5 senses. You can do it without anyone knowing. Start by taking a couple of breathes then ...

1. **What are 5 things you can see?** Look for small details such as a pattern on the ceiling, the way light reflects off a surface, or an object you never noticed.

2. **What are 4 things you can feel?** Notice the sensation of clothing on your body, the sun on your skin, or the feeling of the chair you are sitting in. Pick up an object and examine its weight, texture and other physical qualities.

3. **What are 3 things you can hear?** Pay special attention to the sounds your mind has tuned out, such as a ticking clock, distant traffic, or trees blowing in the wind.

4. **What are 2 things you can smell?** Try to notice smells in the air around you, like an air freshener or freshly mowed grass. You may also look around for something that has a scent, such as a flower or an unlit candle.



5. **What is 1 thing you can taste?** Carry gum, candy, or small snacks for this step. Pop one in your mouth and focus your attention closely on the flavours

Merry Christmas
Have a wonderful time & see you in 2024!
- Brain Injury Assn



WISHING YOU A VERY
MERRY

Christmas



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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 News



PlunketLine nurses a free phone call away 24/7 including Christmas Day

Annual Kōwhainui Christmas Parade full of variety

Day, night and in the wee hours of the morning, Makere Sargent is one of PlunketLine's registered nurses with a listening ear who'll be on the end of the line this summer holiday period, ready to support parents and caregivers of tamariki under-five across the country.

Anyone with questions or worries about pēpi and tamariki under-five can call Whānau Āwhina Plunket's free 24/7 helpline 0800 933 922- even on Christmas Day. "We are here to listen

and support whānau with any questions or concerns about pēpi or tamariki and we can advise when they should see a GP or go to hospital too."

Mother of six, PlunketLine Nurse Makere Sargent says Christmas is a great time to catch up with whānau and friends, and she has a few tips for travelling with tamariki.

"If you're heading away from home, make sure you have a plan for where pēpi will sleep and everything they need. Pack snacks for long trips and take regular breaks.

"This summer is forecast to be a hot one. Your pēpi or child may struggle with the heat so it's important that they drink often. Stay out of the sun, find shade outside wherever possible and remember to slip, slop, slap and wrap.

"Wherever you go in Aotearoa New Zealand, PlunketLine is there to support you. You don't need to be enrolled with Whānau Āwhina Plunket to call PlunketLine, just pick up the phone, calls are free even from your mobile," says Makere.

This year PlunketLine



PlunketLine Nurse Makere Sargent.

handled more than 96,000 calls, provided more than 1,000 free one-on-one video calls with breastfeeding lactation specialists plus started providing free one-on-one video chat sleep support for whānau needing a little extra help settling pēpi.

Call PlunketLine on 0800 933 922 for 24/7 advice and information on parenting issues and your child's health and wellbeing or to book a one-on-one video consult for breastfeeding or sleep support.



Getting the floats ready for the Kōwhainui Christmas parade

The annual Kōwhainui Christmas Parade took place on Monday, 18 December, in front of residents who were sitting alongside the indoor parade route, ready to cheer on, not only staff members involved, but also two preschools, volunteers such as the Mayor Andrew Tripe in his velvet robes of office and Councillor Josh Chandulal-Mackay, wearing his green Christmas suit, which he does every year as he is a regular participant in the parade.

An interesting group included 'members' of Air NZ. Staff members were dressed up as cabin crew (perhaps one was a pilot leaving the cockpit to be

with his colleagues). Another was likely to push the food and drinks trolley (The bottles of whisky and Kahlua were apparently empty). They had roped in two young volunteers named 'Thing 1' and 'Thing 2' from The Cat in the Hat.

The parade included friendly dogs, and one had the presence to go to the toilet before coming in to be part of the parade. Even the cleaners got into the parade with their cleaning trolley decorated in festive style.

While everyone was getting ready, a bunch of men were doing what 'real men' do - cooking on the BBQ.



NUI IMAGE HAIR

Merry Christmas

Wishing all our loyal clients a safe and happy Christmas break and look forward to seeing you and welcoming new clients in the new year

1 Springvale Road, Wanganui
Phone 06 345 0247



Seasonal Greetings from Dale Pullen & his team at Bushy Park Tarapurui Homestead!

Christmas & New Year Opening Hours:

Forest & Sanctuary Open Everyday during daylight hours

24th December	Homestead	10am to 4pm
25th December	Homestead	Closed
26th December	Homestead	Closed
27th December	Homestead	10am to 4pm
28th December	Homestead	10am to 4pm
29th December	Homestead	10am to 4pm
30th December	Homestead	10am to 4pm
31st December	Homestead	10am to 4pm
1st January	Homestead	Closed
2nd January	Homestead	Closed
3rd January	Homestead	10am to 4pm
4th January	Homestead	10am to 4pm
5th January	Homestead	10am to 4pm

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Christmas News



Heading into the great outdoors these holidays?

Source: New Zealand Mountain Safety Council (MSC) and NZ Police

New Zealand Police and the NZ Mountain Safety Council (MSC) predict a high number of people will hit Aotearoa's beautiful outdoors over the holiday season, and they want to make sure everyone makes it home safely from their adventure.

We all want to hit the track as soon as the sun rises, and MSC has some top tips for those exploring Aotearoa's tracks this summer: do your research and pack appropriately, have a plan B, and share your trip plan with someone you trust.

"Doing your research and finding the right track for you and your group's abilities is really important. This includes checking the weather forecast and understanding how this can impact your trip. Packing warm layers and waterproof clothing, such as a rain jacket, regardless of the weather

forecast is always a smart idea," MSC Chief Executive Mike Daisley says.

"Having a plan B means you are prepared for the unexpected. As part of this it's a great idea to also carry some emergency supplies, such as a first aid kit, a little extra food, or perhaps an emergency shelter. You can tailor those emergency supplies to suit the length and remoteness of your adventure, for example for any overnight trip a spare day worth of food and an emergency shelter are essential," Daisley says.

Finally, sharing your trip plan before heading out, including the time you expect to return home, with someone you trust means they can call for help if you're not back by the agreed time.

Police's National Search and Rescue Capability Coordinator, Senior Sergeant Lea Smith, agrees that being prepared is key.

"For anyone heading into the outdoors this summer, consider



The Whanganui River

* Share your plans: Whakamōhiotia atu ō whakaritenga. Telling a trusted person your trip details and taking a beacon can save your life.

* Take care of yourself and each other: Tiakina koe me tangata kē atu.

Eat, drink, rest, and stick with your group and make decisions together.

For more helpful information on outdoor safety, helpful free resources and videos, you can visit the NZ Mountain Safety Council website.

more than one form of communication to call for help or update loved ones. Protect cell phones from weather and damage and consider utilising marine or mountain radio – remember you might not have cellphone coverage.

"A registered distress beacon is also an important part of your equipment – you can rent or buy one.

Beacons can save lives. They give searchers essential information that will help them get to you if you are lost or injured," Senior Sergeant Smith says.

If you are planning to get outdoors and exploring the country's tracks, it is a really good idea to take some time to learn about your destination and to prepare yourself by using MSC's Plan My Walk app and website. With over 1600 tracks to choose from, you get also get track alerts, MetService weather forecasts and warnings, interactive gear lists; and your personalised trip plan can be sent to group members and your emergency contact. It's free to use, and the perfect tool for sound summer planning.

The NZ Land Safety Code provides five key steps for enjoying the outdoors, safely:

* Choose the right trip for you: Kōwhiria te haerenga tika māu

It pays to learn about the route and make sure you have the skills for it?

* Understand the weather: Kia mārama ki te huarere. It can change fast. Check the forecast and change your plans if needed.

* Pack warm clothes and extra food: Kawea ngā kākahu whakamāhana me tahi atu kai. Prepare for bad weather and an unexpected extra night out.

126 show boxes of presents distributed

The Hakeke Street Centre, supported by the Love and Learn Early Childhood Education Centre, asked businesses to again help those who need a bit of support over Christmas to fill a shoe box with gifts.

The response was great. Some donated money, others filled up boxes, thanks to their staff, while others put shoe boxes on their counters and received gifts from their customers. The end result was a collection of 126 boxes to be distributed.

At the Hakeke Street Centre's Christmas party on 16 December, they asked the public to nominate suitable recipients while also receiving nominations from organisations such as Plunket, Safe & Free, MSD and local schools and kindergartens.

Shyanne helped to distribute the boxes and said, "Quite a few recipients cried. It was lovely to help families in this way."

Wishing our customers a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year



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Merry Christmas from the team at Eastside Dairy

63 Jones St, Wanganui East
Phone 343 9598

CHRISTMAS HOURS

Friday 22 December	9.30am - 4.30pm
Saturday 23 December	CLOSED
Sunday 24 December	CLOSED
CHRISTMAS DAY	CLOSED
BOXING DAY	CLOSED
Wednesday 27 December	CLOSED
Thursday 28 December	10.30am - 3.30pm
Friday 29 December	10.30am - 3.30pm
Saturday 30 December	10.30am - 3.30pm
Sunday 31 December	CLOSED
New Years Day	CLOSED
Tuesday 2 January	CLOSED
Wednesday 3 January	Normal Hours Resume 9.30am - 4.30pm

We wish all our customers a blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year.

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Alzheimers Whanganui

CHRISTMAS CLOSURE

Alzheimers Whanganui office will be closed from Thursday 21st December 2023 Re-opening Monday 8th January 2024

We would like to wish the Whanganui Community a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and thank all the individuals and organisations that have provided a wide range of support throughout 2023.

For all enquiries please phone 345 8833

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HOURS CLOSED ARE 22ND DEC - 8TH JAN



Thank you for your support!



Christmas News



Great turnout for Fest of Cultural Unity

The Fest of Cultural Unity took place at Majestic Square on Saturday, 11 November with the area "pretty chocker" for most of the time. Geoff Follett from Mainstreet says, "We were very lucky with the fine weather as it rained the next day."

There was a full line-up of entertainment this year with a total of 16 different cultural groups performing on the day. The sounds, colour and movement provided by dancers and musicians from around the world, proved popular with the enthusiastic audience.

There were also information stalls from Amnesty International Whanganui, Whanganui District Council, Falun Dafa and Te Wananga o Aotearoa.

Of course, the other big attraction is the wide range of ethnic food. In total, there were 21 food stalls offering up cuisine that filled the town centre with amazing aromas and satisfied customers.

Born and Raised Pasifika performed a fusion of Maori, Samoan & Fijian song and dance.

Photos by Antonia Sims Photography.



Samba ao Vento drumming band playing songs inspired by traditional Afro-Brazilian tunes.

IPU NZ Kodama Japanese Drum Team played traditional Japanese taiko drumming.

Photos by Antonia Sims Photography.



Winter Gardens have a great Christmas display



We recommend you visit the Winter Gardens at Virginia Lake over this period to see their great Christmas Display. It will appeal to all ages combining Father Christmas, snowmen, reindeer, North American houses and other symbols of Christmas with red and white plants, especially poinsettias. Children in particular will love the displays.

It is open seven days a week from 9am to 5pm except from Christmas Day to 30 December when it will remain open until 7pm.

Adjoining the Winter Gardens is the Art Garden which combines

an intriguing blend of sculpture and garden art.

Season's Greetings
Phone 021 635 517
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Merry Christmas
 AND HAPPY NEW YEAR

HOLIDAY
Opening Hours

Monday 25th December
CLOSED

Tuesday 26th December
8.00am - 4.00pm

Monday 1st January 2024
CLOSED

Tuesday 2nd January 2024
8.00am - 4.00pm

Thank you
 to all our loyal customers
 for all your support in 2023!
Merry Christmas

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Whanganui District Council wishes you a safe and happy holiday season

These are our opening hours for council facilities and services during the 2023/2024 Christmas and New Year holiday period.

You can still contact us at any time on **06 349 0001**. This number is monitored 24/7, including for urgent enquiries.

Customer Services 101 Guyton Street and Infrastructure Office 179 St Hill Street

22 December 2023: OPEN 8.30am - 12 noon ONLY

24 December 2023 - 3 January 2024: CLOSED

3 January 2024: OPEN 8.30am - 5.00pm (Guyton Street)
Infrastructure Office re-opens at 8.00am
Normal hours resume

Whanganui & Partners – Innovation Quarter, 179 St Hill Street

22 December 2023: OPEN 8.00am - 3.00pm ONLY

25 December 2023 - 5 January 2024: CLOSED

8 January 2024: OPEN 8.00am - 5.00pm
Normal hours resume

Whanganui isite Visitor Information Centre, 31 Taupo Quay

23 December 2023: OPEN 9.00am - 4.00pm

24 December 2023: OPEN 9.00am - 3.00pm

Monday to Friday: OPEN 9.00am - 5.00pm

Saturday and Sunday: OPEN 9.00am - 4.00pm

Public holidays: OPEN 9.00am - 3.00pm

OPEN every day except Christmas Day

New Zealand Glassworks, 2 Rutland Street

22 December 2023: OPEN 10.00am - 2.00pm

Monday to Sunday: OPEN 10.00am - 4.30pm

OPEN every day except Christmas Day, Boxing Day and 1-2 January 2024

Whanganui Regional Museum, Watt Street

OPEN every day (except Christmas Day) 10.00am - 4.30pm

Free entry

Whanganui Regional Museum Archives, Watt Street

22 December 2023 - 3 January 2024: CLOSED

OPEN by appointment only

Please email: archives@wrm.org.nz

Durie Hill Elevator

Monday to Friday: OPEN 8.00am - 6.00pm

Saturday to Sunday and public holidays:

OPEN 10.00am - 5.00pm

OPEN every day except Christmas Day

Animal Pound, Airport Road

23 December 2023 - 2 January 2024: CLOSED

The facility is closed during this time but you can still call the animal management team on 06 349 0001 for all animal-related enquiries.

3 January 2024: OPEN 11.00am - 1.00pm

Normal hours resume

Davis Library, Pukenamu Queen's Park

23 December 2023: OPEN 10.00am - 5.00pm

24 December 2023: OPEN 10.00am - 3.00pm

25-26 December 2023: CLOSED

27-29 December 2023: OPEN 9.30am - 6.00pm

30 December 2023: 10.00am - 5.00pm

31 December 2023: 10.00am - 3.00pm

1-2 January 2024: CLOSED

3 January 2024: OPEN 9.30am - 6.00pm
Normal hours resume

Mobile Library

Tahi

24 December 2023 - 8 January 2024: CLOSED

9 January 2024: Normal hours resume

Rua

15 December 2023 - 29 January 2024: CLOSED

30 January 2024: Normal hours resume

Gonville Library, 44 Abbot Street

23 December 2023: OPEN 10.00am - 2.00pm

24-26 December 2023: CLOSED

27-29 December 2023: OPEN 9.00am - 5.00pm

30 December 2023: OPEN 10.00am - 2.00pm

31 December 2023 - 2 January 2024: CLOSED

3 January 2024: OPEN 9.00am - 5.00pm

Normal hours resume

Alexander Library | Te Rerenga Mai o Te Kāuru, Pukenamu Queen's Park (weekdays only)

22 December 2023: OPEN 9.30am - 5.00pm

23 December 2023 - 2 January 2024: CLOSED

3 January 2024: 9.30am - 5.00pm

Normal hours resume

Hakeke Street Community Centre and Library, 65 Hakeke Street

22 December 2023: OPEN 9.00am - 1.00pm

23 December 2023 - 7 January 2024: CLOSED

8 January 2024: OPEN

Normal hours resume

Aramoho Library, 2 Mitchell Street

20 December 2023 - 8 January 2024: CLOSED

9 January 2024: OPEN

Normal hours resume

Castlecliff Community Hub and Library, 10 Rangiora Street

23 December 2023: OPEN

24 December 2023 - 9 January 2024: CLOSED

10 January 2024: OPEN

Normal hours resume

Whanganui Airport

The airport terminal will open ONE hour before departures and 20 minutes before arrivals for scheduled Air Chathams flights. For all Air Chathams enquiries, please call 0800 580 127

Cooks Gardens

Velodrome: CLOSED unless pre-booked

Track: OPEN

For event or booking enquiries, please email: events@whanganui.govt.nz

Whanganui War Memorial Centre, Watt Street

18 December 2023 - 7 January 2024: CLOSED

8 January 2024: OPEN

For event or booking enquiries, please email: events@whanganui.govt.nz

Bookings can be made online at: www.whanganuivenues.co.nz

Box Office, Royal Whanganui Opera House, 69 St Hill Street

18 December 2023 - 7 January 2024: CLOSED

8 January 2024: OPEN 10.00am - 1.30pm

Normal hours resume

For online ticket sales, please visit: www.rwoh.sales.ticketsearch.com/sales

Splash Centre, Springvale Park

23 December 2023: OPEN 8.00am - 6.00pm

24 December 2023: OPEN 8.00am - 1.00pm

25-26 December 2023: CLOSED

27-30 December 2023: OPEN 10.00am - 5.00pm

31 December 2023: OPEN 8.00am - 1.00pm

1-2 January 2024: CLOSED

3 January 2024: OPEN (normal hours resume)

Whanganui East Pool, 67 Tinirau Street

23 December 2023: OPEN 12 noon - 7.00pm

24-25 December 2023: CLOSED

26-30 December 2023: OPEN 12 noon - 6.00pm

31 December 2023 - 1 January 2024: CLOSED

2 January 2024: OPEN

Normal hours resume

Whanganui Resource Recovery Centre, 81 Maria Place

The centre is open during the following hours for dropping off glass, paper/cardboard and cans. Recyclable plastics are NOT being accepted temporarily due to a fire earlier in December.

22 December 2023: OPEN 9.00am - 3.00pm (reduced hours)

23 December 2023: OPEN 9.00am - 3.00pm (reduced hours)

24 December 2023: OPEN 9.00am - 3.00pm (reduced hours)

25 December 2023: CLOSED

26 December 2023: CLOSED

27 December 2023: OPEN 9.00am - 3.00pm (reduced hours)

28 December 2023: OPEN 9.00am - 4.30pm

29 December 2023: OPEN 9.00am - 4.30pm

30 December 2023: OPEN 9.00am - 3.00pm (reduced hours)

31 December 2023: OPEN 9.00am - 3.00pm (reduced hours)

1 January 2024: CLOSED

2 January 2024: CLOSED

3 January 2024: OPEN 9.00am - 4.30pm

Normal hours resume



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Opportunities to view, even inspect *Well-known sign has to go* vintage cars in January

‘Wheels on Victoria’ is returning to Whanganui on Saturday, 20 January, as part of Vintage Weekend. The cars will be parked on the Ave all the way from Ingestre Street through to the Town Bridge.

One of the organisers, Peter Hardy, says “Come along and witness cars through the ages, from the early 1900s to the one your dad, or even your Grandad drove. Even better, bring along your own classic car and join the others on display in Victoria Ave on Saturday, 19 January. No limits, no rules, Veteran, Vintage, Hot Rod, Muscle Car, Classic Bikes - all are welcome - “We can never have too many.”

You can bring your car into the Ave from Maria Place and the marshals will direct you. Public viewing is from 10am to 4pm. Last year, they had over 300 vehicles. Bikes will be based in the 2nd block. Free to enter or view.

Frank James is another organiser, and he says, “It was amazing to see all types of cars come out of the woodwork.” One of his favourites last year was the possum in a sidecar.

Mitre 10 Mega Classic Cruise – Later on Saturday

One of the established highlights of the Whanganui Vintage Weekend is when the classic cars tour the town to encourage everyone to join the Vintage Weekend activi-

ties. Two routes are available, one slightly shorter, in town, and the other including a rural section.

Entry is \$15 per car, which includes an entry into the fabulous Mitre 10 Mega sponsored draw after the cars arrive at The Barracks Bar, Saint Hill Street.

Enter at the Mitre 10 Mega Car Park from 4pm, pay your \$15, pick your route and then, at 5pm, off you go on your chosen route.

There are no restrictions on make model or age; just bring your classic car, your friends and family and off you go to show the town what great cars look like. “We drive by most of the town’s Rest Homes so give them a beep and a wave, and the same goes for the crowds on the roadside as you tour past.

Call Peter on 0212723444 for more details

Outline of the short route

Leave Mitre 10 Car Park, over the bridge into Whanganui East, going on these streets – Jones, Duncan, Burton Ave, Kepa, Tinirau, Hakeke, Holyoak, Eastown Road, Poutini, Milton, Helmore, Anzac Parade and across to the other side of the river.

From here, the route goes into Somme Parade, Barrack, Seddon, Kaikokopo, Roberts, Paterson, Quick and into the Top Ten Holiday Park, before returning back into Seddon, Peat, Halswell and up Christie’s Hill.

In St Johns, it is up Virginia Road, left into Great



Wheels on Victoria coming again on January 20

North Road, through Living Waters Resthome, past Virginia Lake, into Brassey Road, Oakland Ave, back into Great North Road, left into Glasgow Street, Harrison, Liverpool and back into Victoria Ave, Ridgway, St Hill Street, arriving at Barracks Sports Bar

Rest Home Timings (approximately)

- Summerset: 5.05
- Masonic 5.09
- St Johns Hill Healthcare: 5.38
- Virginia Lodge: 5.40
- Jane Winstone: 5.43
- Abbingdon: 5.43
- New Vista: 5.46

The Long Route

Includes Carlton Ave, Alma Rd, York, Puriri, Cross, Polson, Mānuka, Cornfoot, Seafrost, Rangiora, Matai, Taupata, Karaka, Waitote, Moss-ton, Tayforth, Francis, Rapanui, Mowhanau, Kai Iwi Valley, Rangitautau East Rd, Brunswick, Blueskin,

Montgomery, Springvale, Peakes, Spurde, Treadwell, Grey St, College, Ingestre, and finishing up at the Barracks Sports Bar.

The Burma Rally Sunday 21

The Burma Rally is one of two major rally’s the Wanganui Vintage car club run each year. There are usually 70-100 cars taking part. Cars will start assembling from 8.30 am at Commarket Reserve, near the Dublin St bridge.

The event is open to entrants only who are members of the Vintage Car Club and some invited guests. There will be briefing for cars at 9.15am with the first cars away at 9.30am. the rally can be up to 100 miles long and covers the greater Wanganui district.

Where - Commarket Reserve, Whanganui

When - 8.30 Assembly - 9.30am Departure
Price - Free to view



It is unmistakable. On the road to Upokongaro and onwards to Raetihi and beyond, there is a sales sign on the right-hand side for Real Estate Agent, Param Singh. The message on one side is, ‘It’s not goodbye. It is see you later.’ On the other side it welcomes people to Whanganui.

The sign has been there for about seven years, and it would have to be one of the most memorable signs

around Whanganui. Unfortunately, it has to go. The landowner has leased the land, and as part of the deal, Param will have to take down the sign.

He would love to install it somewhere else on a route to and from Whanganui. If anyone is interested in having it on their property in a suitable location, please get in touch with Param at Bayleys, Whanganui.

Season's Greetings

**Celebrate New Year early with us!
Saturday 30 December**

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Whanganui



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BOXING DAY WHANGANUI

DON'T MISS THIS YEARS ACTION

- GET TRACK SIDE!

Ticket sales available at the gate or buy online at www.cemeterycircuit.co.nz to skip the queues



Whanganui Cemetery Circuit returns on Boxing Day

The famous Whanganui Cemetery Boxing Day Circuit returns on December 26 returns as Round 3 of the Suzuki International Series. The previous rounds have taken place in early December in Taupo and Mansfield. However, the Cemetery Circuit is the jewel in the series, as a street circuit is much more exciting than the other man-made racetracks.

The circuit has a proud history, having been raced every year bar three times since 1951. The exceptions were in 1964 when there was no meeting; in 2012, when rain washed out the event, and in 2021, when it had to be cancelled because of the Covid-19 pandemic.

It takes a mammoth effort and significant sponsorship for the Cemetery Circuit Ltd on behalf of



One of the first Cemetery Circuit races in Whanganui

the Whanganui Motorcycle Inc to run the event, and manager Allan Willacy pays tribute to the volunteers, whose numbers "peak at over 200, giving

up their time and energy and we would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of them."

The Races

1. Pre-89/95 Post Classics. This category has attracted a lot of entries, with five from Whanganui including well known names of Jeff Croot and Perry Lett. Another entry is Chris Nobbs from Auckland, the son of City Mission manager, Antony.

2. Supersport 300. There are no locals racing in this category, with the closest being Luke Martin, from Waverley.

3. Formula Sport. Another large category with six locals involved riding different bikes from two riding an Aprilia RSV4RR Factory 1100, with others riding a BMW S1000RR, a Suzuki GSXR1000, a Ducati 999S and a Honda CBR600RR.

4. The F2 Supersport 600. Has only one competitor - Luca Durning on her Ducati F2

5. NZ Supermoto Champs. There are five locals competing in this category - Richie Dibben, James Clarke, Craig Scott, Marc McKenzie and Alex



Luff-Scott.

6. Supersport 150/Gixxer 150. There are no locals riding in this category.

7. F1/Superbikes. Richie Dibben is flying the flag for Whanganui in this category.

8. F1 & F2 Sidecars. This category brings its own excitement to motorcycle racing. The two Whanganui entries are Peter and

Lucy Dowman and Bryan Stent and Tracey Bryan.

9. F3/Pro Twins. Tony Hirini is the only Whan-

ganui rider in this event.

10. Pre 82 Classic Sidecars. Whanganui has six entries out of a total of 11.



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BOXING DAY WHANGANUI

DON'T MISS THIS YEARS ACTION

- GET TRACK SIDE!

Ticket sales available at the gate or buy online at www.cemeterycircuit.co.nz to skip the queues



Steven Roberts: Whanganui's motorbike designer and vehicle restorer

In the official programme for the Cemetery Circuit, there is an extended article from 'The Shed Magazine' about local Steve Roberts, titled 'For the Love of It.' The article points out that "Steve's virtu-

osity with metal is legend among motoring enthusiasts and racing professionals around the world and, after six decades in the trade, he is still a go-to-guy for out-of-the-box thinking and superior craftsmanship. His output has

been prodigious; his innovations groundbreaking; his production values and eye for detail next level." It goes on to state that "In 1983, he was awarded the Inventor of the Year prize for his 'Plastic

Fantastic' bikes and in 2017 took his rightful place in Motorcycling New Zealand's Hall of Fame."

The RCP interviewed Steve in January 2017 to write a front-page article about him. The Sarjeant Gallery had for two years in a row held an exhibition of some of his motor bikes to coincide with the Boxing Day races.

Among his various commissions from throughout New Zealand and the world was a rebuild of a Graham McRae-designed and built Formula 5000 racing car. Graham was a champion New Zealand racing car driver.

With Dick Lawton and Rod Coleman, Steve built several Suzuki racing bikes with some great results, including a second in the 1971 500cc world championships.

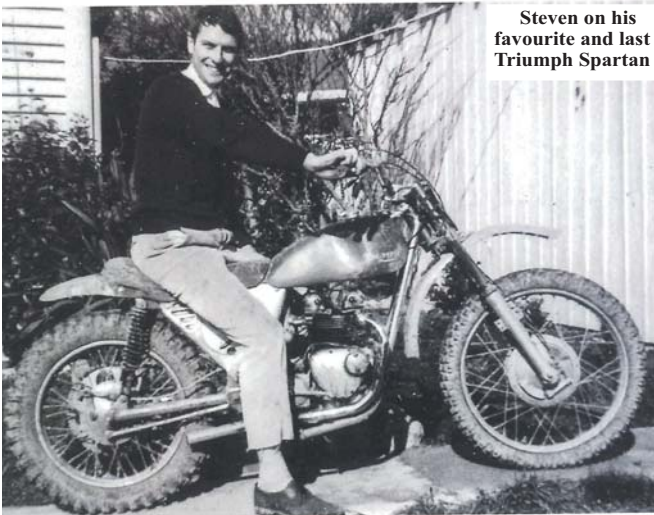
A succession of who's who rode Steve's bikes, including Dave

Hiscock, one of the top three in the world at the time. He rode one of Steve's creations to Australasian and New Zealand champion-

ships. Another was Robert Holden.

Local motorbike enthusiast Rod Trott believes that Steve will be especially

remembered for his Kevlar bike, "Steve had a strong influence of the legendary New Zealand motorbike designer John Britton,"



Steven on his favourite and last Triumph Spartan

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What you need to know when attending Cemetery Circuit

Times:

• Start times are dependent on weather during practice.

• Racing starts around 12 noon, with practice sessions in the morning.

Parking

• Taupo Quay. Outside circuit for spectators.

• Heads Road/Liffiton Street. Motorcycle car park opposite McDonalds and nearby street parking.

• Hatrik Street. Parking available along the railway line before entry.

• Maria Place, Wilson Street, St Hill Streets, Taupo Quay. Parking is also available opposite Trafalgar Square shopping area and alongside the riverbank.

Warnings to the public

• Motor racing is dangerous and all persons attending do so entirely at their own risk.

• No glass and no animals allowed.

• The carrying or consumption of alcoholic

beverages in the pit area is prohibited.

Praising the role of Volunteers

The Cemetery Circuit team gives "a big thanks to all our volunteers. Without their loyalty and support we would not have this now iconic event. Volunteers peak at over 200 on Boxing Day, giving up their time and energy and we would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of them."



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Community News

Pink Ribbon fundraiser triumphs with over \$8000 raised



MC Harry (left) and Ngaire Packer-Samuels (right).

Photo credit: Annette Western-Lovell

Last month, the Castlecliff Golf Club Pink Ribbon Committee hosted a sensational Pink Ribbon High Tea, captivating 130 guests and becoming the season's hottest ticket. An enchanting afternoon unfolded, blending fun, delectable food, and generous contributions towards breast cancer research. The Pink Ribbon High Tea triumphantly generated \$8,869.91 through ticket sales, raffles, and sponsored prizes. The local business community played a pivotal role, generously contributing to raffles and lucky draws, enhancing the event's success despite challenging economic times.

Marlene's sister, Ngaire Packer-Samuels, courageously shared her breast cancer journey, emphasising early detection's vital role. A special Samoan performance by Tyler-Jade Satele & Millie Teki added a cultural touch dedicated to their Nan, enhancing the day's emotional depth.

Adding a touch of magic was the emerging venture, HarryD Events, led by the charismatic Master of Ceremonies, HarryD. With a captivating Drag King style, HarryD elevated the event, ensuring everyone was entertained and the occasion flowed seamlessly.

Major sponsors, including McDon-

alds Whanganui, Stevo's Distributors, Ron and Faith McLaughlan whānau, Wanganui Drainage, Tasman Tanning, Continental Event Hire, and Castlecliff Golf Club, played a significant role as well as over 30 other businesses who kindly donated products and services to help raise funds for cancer research.

Special mention goes to caterer Darlene Hall of Phoenix Flaming Eatery, whose beautiful food reflected a heartfelt commitment driven by a personal breast cancer journey within her whānau. Golf Manager Rodney Donaldson provided unwavering support, and resident photographer Annette Western-Lovell captured enjoyable moments you can view on Castlecliff Golf Club's website.

In the background, we'd like to extend heartfelt appreciation to Winnie Clark, Marlene Gray, Barbara Corner, Lorette Heibner, Allie Ward, Pauline Kennedy, Pam Wilson, Jane Barlow, Lyn Bristol, Rowie Packer and Petrina Clark who poured their hearts into making the Pink Ribbon event enjoyable and meaningful for everyone. Event organiser Winnie Clark expressed, "Our Whanganui community is truly special, and the success of this event owes everything to their invaluable contributions and support."

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~ Quinlan Court turning 25 years old ~

In 1994, some aging sisters of St Joseph in Whanganui raised questions of how those sisters not requiring Rest Home care were to live independently with the right kind of support in the future. A survey showed that there was a general need in the community.

Various facilities in New Zealand were looked at, and it became a reality in 1998 with the opening of

Quinlan Court in Harrison Street. It had 15 personal units, communal facilities of dining room, kitchen, laundry as well as garage spaces. Another five units were added in 2016.

The name was chosen by the Sisters to honour Sister Hyacinth Quinlan, who led the first four Sisters to Whanganui in 1880. She ministered in the Whanganui area for 11 years and led the first community

in Hawera in 1885, before moving to Tasmania, where she died in 1933.

Residents share their main meal at lunch time in the dining room. A continental breakfast is available, and residents can select from a buffet provision including salads and something like a quiche, for their evening meal.

There is a weekday manager, kitchen coordinator/caretaker manager as well

as cooking and cleaning staff.

The number of Sisters in residence have varied with the current number of five. Sister Helen Doyle, who was on the original planning group and became the first manager of Quinlan Court, is now a very happy resident.

The RCP met with four residents – all Sisters – Helen, Jo O'Connor, Marcienne Waite and Kristine Keane. They pointed out that while there are currently no men, there have been in the past and hopefully in the future. They point out that you don't have to be Catholic to be a resident – in fact they don't know who is Catholic and who is not.

All four had other lives and ministries in the community and said the emphasis at Quinlan Court was on independent living. "You can get involved as much or as little as you want." There are plenty of interest groups such as playing cards, Mahjong, puzzles with some going out to exercise classes. The gardens around Quinlan Court are attractive, and if you want, you can have your own little garden.

One Sister said that she put her name down 30 years ago, although they didn't necessarily want to live in such an arrangement. With most of them



Quinlan Court Sisters Marcienne, Jo, Kristine and Helen

here for more than three years, they are very happy with Sister Jo, describing Quinlan Court as "a mar-

vellous place." Friends and families, as well as caregivers, are frequent visitors.

If residents need hospital-type care, they will move on to a suitable rest home.

Kōwhainui Christmas Parade



The annual Kōwhainui Retirement Home Christmas Parade held last week involved staff members who were dressed up as cabin crew. Another was pushing the food and drinks

trolley (The bottles of whisky and Kahlua were apparently empty). They had also roped in two young volunteers named 'Thing 1' and 'Thing 2' from The Cat in the Hat.

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Wednesday 27 December
7am - 9pm

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Merry Christmas to all our readers

Graeme to retire after running 'On Call Labour' business

Graeme Musson handed over the keys to On Call Central limited to Rahul Patel on the 16th of October, eight years after it was established by him and his wife Margaret to serve the business community of Wanganui and add some competition in supplying Casual Labour, Recruitment and Drug testing.

The Wanganui purchase complements a Labour hire business Rahul already operates in Auckland, and he says the expansion into Wanganui shows his faith in the growth of the Central district area and will use the experience he has in bringing in overseas

experienced workers to fill the void in certain areas if and as required in Wanganui.

The new company will continue to use the trading name of 'ON CALL LABOUR' in Wanganui, and you will now see it being used in Auckland

as well.

Vinit Patel has been appointed to run the Wanganui operation and will be assisted by one other, starting in the new year.

Graeme says that it is now time for both him and Margaret to retire, sit back and smell the roses

and spend more family time together.

The contact for ON CALL LABOUR Wanganui is now Vinit Patel 0223903963, email vinit@occltd.co.nz, Suite G Victoria Court, 94 Victoria Avenue, Wanganui.

Stephen Brandon CEO Community Foundation moving on

Stephen Brandon joined the Whanganui Community Foundation six years ago as their CEO, and at the end of January, he will be moving on to set up his own consultancy. He says, "I have loved the job,

learnt a lot and value the relationships I have been able to develop."

He adds, "The people I have worked with to process their application for a grant are all dedicated to their causes and together, all want to see a strong Whanganui community, which the Foundation is all about."

He admits that it has been a learning process but has developed the understanding and expertise to take it to the next level - working with community funding agencies throughout the country while continuing to be based in Whanganui.

Key to this expertise is not only being confident talking finances and discussing alternatives with applicants but also understanding how to use the computer systems.

His main focus will now be working with those on the funding side to make their processes quicker and more successful. He has already been working with Toi Foundation in Taranaki and Rātā Foundation in Christchurch.

A common denominator is the Fluxx Company, a dedicated philanthropic company which provides IT programmes for grant-making organisations. It is described as "the industry-leading cloud-first grants management software solution. Purpose-built by grantmakers for grant-making."

As Stephen says, "It understands the processes of grants, pay-

ments, schedules etc. Over the past six years, I have made a name for myself worldwide, helping funders use it better. The core software can be complicated or reasonably simple as you want."

In his new role as a consultant, Stephen is likely to be also involved in upskill training. "I know their tech people." He is not aware of anyone else in New Zealand doing full-time the consultancy work he is planning. "This is a niche opportunity."

Whanganui Community Foundation provides annual grants of around \$1million per year. The focus is on professional development and capacity-building activities in the Community sector, welfare-based projects which aim to promote intergenerational change and respecting diversity.

Grants have been given to a wide range of community organisations, with larger amounts given to Jigsaw Whanganui, Stone Soup, the Sarjeant Gallery redevelopment project, Bulls Community Centre, YMCA and Surf Lifesaving.

They responded to the Covid-19 Pandemic by offering grants from \$1000 to \$5000 to support non-profit community organisations affected. They are also responding to the housing crisis by allocating significant grants to organisations involved in providing housing.



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- Thursday 9:30am - 7:00pm
- Friday 9:30am - 5:00pm
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Stephen Brandon

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ROUND 2 NEW ZEALAND JETSPRINT CHAMPIONSHIP WANGANUI

WEDNESDAY 27TH DECEMBER 2023

SHELTER VIEW JETSPRINT TRACK, WANGANUI, QUALIFYING STARTS 9:00AM
GATE SALES: ADULT \$30, CHILD 5-15YRS: \$10 (UNDER 5'S FREE), FAMILY PASS \$70
ONLINE TICKETS: ADULT \$25, FAMILY \$60. WWW.V8JETSPRINTS.CO.NZ



Jetsprint racing in Whanganui



Whanganui will be hosting two rounds of Jet Sprints – on Wednesday 27 December and the final round on Monday, 4 March 2024. Hastings was unable to host their round, so Whanganui stepped up. The other rounds are in Wanaka, Featherston and Meremere. The Shelterview Jet Sprint Track, which is off State Highway 4 on your right, past Upokongaro but before the turnoff to the River Road, was purpose-built back in 2004. Julia Murray, on whose farm it is based, says, “We were having a beer after rugby, and Peter Dillon, a Jet Sprint driver himself, sug-

gested the idea.” It is a great spot to watch the jet sprints. You can’t miss any of the action, no matter where you sit. The backdrop of trees and the hills makes for a pleasant setting. The Jet Sprints attract all types. As Julia says, “There is an amazing variation of ages with a high percentage of women.” The day starts at 9am for qualification rounds – spectators are welcome at this stage – with racing due to start around 11am and finish around 4.30pm. There will be up to 30 boats competing. You can bring your own food and drinks,

as well as chairs and perhaps a blanket. There will be food and coffee carts, however. Julia reminds people that it is a farm – so wear suitable shoes. But absolutely no pets. Two locals will be competing. Rob Coley is in the NZ1 category – Building King Super Boat class. He won the series last year. Ross Travers is in NZ2 Group A, Sprintec class. The boats are super-fast, reaching 140km per hour in under 2 seconds. Julia says, “Their acceleration is one of the fastest in the world, quicker than an F1 jet.” They also pull 4.5 gs on the corner.” The drivers are strapped in with 5

to 6 harnesses as well as being protected by a neck device and roll cages.” Julia is proud to say that there have been no deaths in the sport. Julia is looking forward to the World Series taking place in New Zealand in 2025, with Whanganui hosting the final race. She is the President of Jet Sprint NZ. Overseas entries will come from the USA, Canada, and Australia. Many of them buy their boats here, and especially if they are from Australia, they will tend to leave them here, as it is cheaper than transporting them back and forth. The tickets cost \$25

online and \$30 at the gate, children 5 to 15 are \$10, and those under 5 are free. A family pass for two adults and two children is \$60.

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4.0L, petrol, auto, only 132,000kms, CD stacker, Tiptronic, digital dash, towbar, foglights, alloys, Bluetooth, Very tidy sedan.



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Summer kitchen tips to stay cool

Cost of building a home increases by 4.9% annually

Take advantage of summer and use your appliances the right way to stay cool.

Grill Outdoors: Take the cooking outside by using a grill. Not only does it keep the heat out of your kitchen, but it also adds a delicious smoky flavour to your food. We love cooking on the Wolf outdoor BBQ it's a game changer with the flavour levels.

Invest in a Blender: Summer is the perfect time for refreshing smoothies, cold soups, and icy beverages. A blender is a versatile appliance that can help you whip up cool and nutritious treats.

Optimise Refrigerator Use: Keep your fridge organized to reduce the time the door is open.

Seal leftovers properly and consider using airtight containers to keep your fridge working efficiently.

Choose Energy-Efficient Appliances: If you're in the market for new appliances, look for those with the Energy Star label. They are designed to be more energy-efficient, which can save you money in the long run.



Maintain Your Appliances: Clean the coils on your refrigerator, check the seals, and perform regular maintenance on your appliances. Clean, well-maintained appliances tend to work more efficiently and use less energy.

Use Small Appliances: When possible, use smaller appliances like toaster ovens or microwaves instead of the oven. They heat up quickly and don't contribute as much to indoor temperatures.

Keep the Kitchen Well-Ventilated: Use exhaust fans or open windows to

help remove hot air from your kitchen. This can make a significant difference in maintaining a comfortable temperature.

Cook in Batches: Instead of cooking multiple times a day, consider preparing larger batches of meals and reheating as needed. This reduces the overall cooking time and minimizes heat exposure in the kitchen.

Go for No-Cook Meals: Embrace salads, sandwiches, and other no-cook meals that don't require heating up the kitchen. This is a great way to enjoy fresh, cool meals during the summer.

ing the summer.

Upgrade to Energy-Efficient Lighting: If you have incandescent bulbs, consider switching to LED lights. Incandescent bulbs emit more heat, contributing to the overall temperature in your kitchen.

Schedule Cooking for Cooler Times: Try to cook during the cooler parts of the day, such as early morning or late evening, to minimize the impact of heat in your kitchen.

By implementing these tips, you can keep your kitchen cool and energy-efficient during the summer months.

The average cost of building a home in Aotearoa New Zealand's main centres has increased by less than half as much as last year.

QV CostBuilder is New Zealand's most comprehensive construction cost database. More than 42,000 rates were updated in November, with the average cost of building a standard three-bedroom home increasing by 4.9% annually, including by just 0.9% since June 2023.

This compares to an average annual increase of 11.3% at the same time last year, and an average annual increase of 14.7% at the end of November 2021.

CostBuilder spokesperson and quantity surveyor Martin Bisset commented: "Construction costs have all-but stabilised throughout the second half of this year, reflecting a somewhat improved economic outlook internationally and an easing in the global supply chain issues that arose throughout the Covid-19 pandemic.

"Fuel costs have largely stabilised for the time being, inflation is in slow decline, and interest rates are expected to be at or near their peak now. These factors and others closer to home – including increased migration helping to fill labour shortages – are currently keeping rising costs in check."

However, Mr Bisset warned that there was still a great deal of uncertainty at home and abroad, which made it difficult to predict how construction costs would continue to evolve into 2024 and beyond. "Economic conditions remain highly volatile – not least because of the war in Ukraine and the Israel-Hamas conflict."

"There's still a question of whether or not interest rates will ease at all next

year, and by how much will depend on inflation being contained. As we rely on importing a lot of building materials in this country, a lot also depends on the buying power of the New Zealand dollar," he added.

Elemental rates have increased by 0.4% on average since CostBuilder's major update in June. The cost of the frame and substructure went down 4% and 2.9% respectively due to the reduction in steel rates, but drainage and roofing went up by 5% and 2.8% respectively.

The biggest trade price change related to reinforcing steel, which reduced by 16.9% due to a more favourable exchange rate. However, infrastructure increased by 7% due to increases in plant hire fees and drainage rates, with demolition also increasing by 5.1% due to average increases for plant hire and tip fees.

"It's important to remember these figures are averages and the cost of building will always be dependent on the level of finishes, internal layout, and all manner of other elements, including whether or not a home has a single or double garage," Mr Bisset said.

CostBuilder is an online subscription-based building cost platform, powered by state-owned enterprise Quotable Value (QV), with a database of more than 60,000 rates across Auckland, Hamilton, Palmerston North, Wellington, Christchurch and Dunedin.

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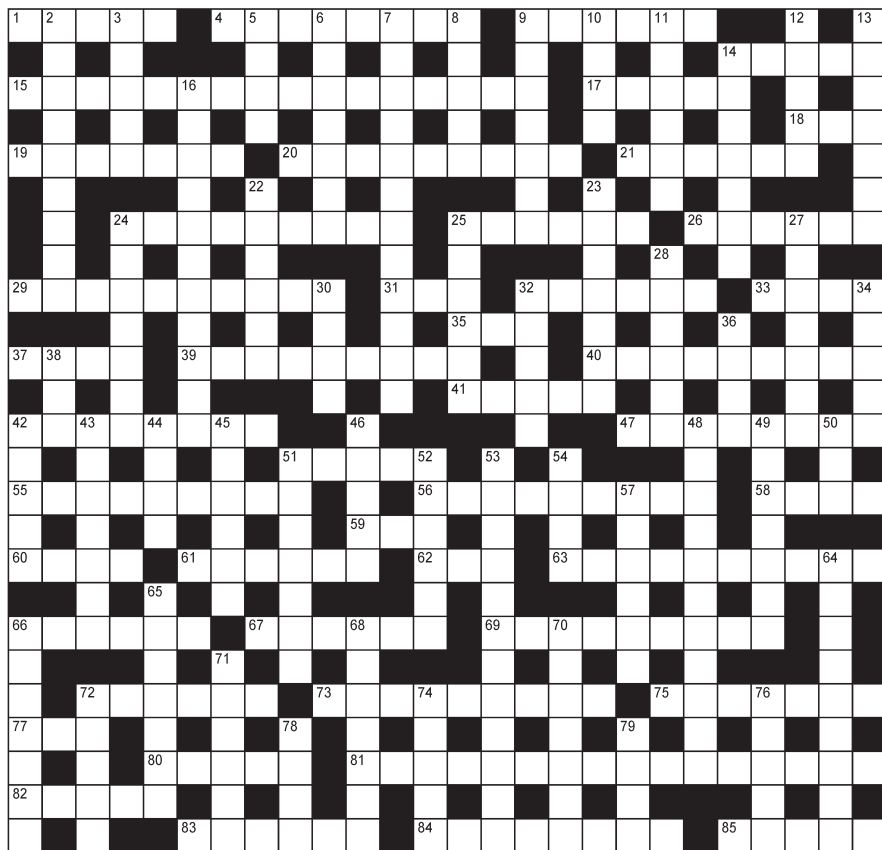
Jumbo crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Bisect (5)
- 4 "The boy who never grew up" (5,3)
- 9 Struggle against (6)
- 14 Core (5)
- 15 Following soon after (4,2,3,5,2)
- 17 Throttle (5)
- 18 Age (3)
- 19 Horseback soldiers (7)
- 20 Writing untidily (9)
- 21 Rubble (6)
- 24 The common people (3,6)
- 25 Steering board (6)
- 26 Taste (6)
- 29 Rock studiers (10)
- 31 Insect (3)
- 32 Cup-shaped sweet spongy cake (6)
- 33 Second Greek letter (4)
- 35 Mined mineral (3)
- 37 Wind blast (4)
- 39 In neutral (3,2,4)
- 40 Trickery (9)
- 41 Embezzlement (5)
- 42 Stay of execution (8)
- 47 Squeeze (8)
- 51 Impudence (5)
- 55 Pinball game (9)
- 56 Makes queasy (9)
- 58 Ditty (4)
- 59 Frozen water (3)
- 60 Require (4)
- 61 Breathed quickly (6)
- 62 Donkey (3)
- 63 Fussy (10)
- 66 Well again (6)
- 67 Last exams (6)
- 69 Multiplied (9)
- 72 Drawing (6)
- 73 Keeping (9)
- 75 Strong distilled liquor (7)
- 77 Share (3)
- 80 Perfect (5)
- 81 Hide; make secret (4,1,7,4)
- 82 Tie up (5)
- 83 Completely lacking (6)
- 84 Ascertain, verify (4,4)
- 85 Declare (5)

DOWN

- 2 Ski resort danger (9)
- 3 Alcoholic drink (5)
- 5 Sound repeat (4)
- 6 Morally correct (7)
- 7 Beat about the bush (12)
- 8 Of the nose (5)
- 9 Purified (7)
- 10 Ill (4)
- 11 Digging tool (6)
- 12 Feels concern (5)
- 13 Queer (7)
- 14 Gossip (7)
- 16 Accommodation for elderly (7,4)
- 22 Girdle (6)
- 23 Remove all faults from (7)
- 24 Gun pouch (7)
- 25 Distilling apparatus (6)
- 27 Go before (7)
- 28 Sex drive (6)
- 30 Strongbox (4)
- 32 Measuring device (5)
- 34 Deep chasm (5)
- 36 Twist out of shape (4)
- 38 Application (3)
- 42 Small bird (5)
- 43 Colouring agent (7)
- 44 To the interior (4)
- 45 Gross (6)
- 46 Lukewarm (5)
- 48 American river (11)
- 49 Saved from danger (7)
- 50 Male child (3)
- 51 Sure (7)
- 52 Mixes by pressing (6)
- 53 Punctuation symbol (8,4)
- 54 Assistance (4)
- 57 Christmas bird (6)
- 64 Flat (9)
- 65 Origin (7)
- 66 Withdraw trade from (7)
- 68 Modified for the better (7)
- 70 Expresses agreement (7)
- 71 Plot (6)
- 72 Structural support (5)
- 74 Warning device (5)
- 76 Perch (5)
- 78 Too (4)
- 79 Mix up (4)



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SIMON SHUKER'S CODE-CRACKER Extra 791

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

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

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

HARD

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

Previous solution

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

Previous solution

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

Previous crossword solution

ACROSS: 1 Sauté, 4 Over my dead body, 11 Molar, 14 Apart, 15 Merchandise, 16 Ladybird, 19 Maestro, 20 Guile, 21 Declining, 24 Alienated, 26 Busker, 27 Caries, 31 Banal, 32 Figurine, 34 Microscope, 37 Asp, 39 Uranium, 40 Shrink, 41 Outfit, 42 Idea, 43 Startle, 46 Gregarious, 51 Enlarge, 55 Rips, 56 Joined, 57 Astute, 58 Codicil, 60 Yam, 62 Bootlegger, 63 Abnormal, 64 Eager, 67 Starve, 68 Infant, 69 Truncated, 74 Gratitude, 75 Trick, 76 Caution, 81 Obedient, 82 Acquisition, 83 Ditto, 84 Shock, 85 As happy as a lark, 86 Fever.

DOWN: 2 Appear, 3 Turns, 5 View, 6 Recluse, 7 Yearly, 8 Ends, 9 Disperse, 10 Years, 11 Mayonnaise, 12 Lair, 13 Riddles, 17 Brief, 18 Alleviates, 22 Habit, 23 Disorder, 25 Learner, 26 Breaker, 28 Garret, 29 Siding, 30 Praise, 33 Usher, 35 Evade, 36 Pull, 38 Polo, 43 Shrub, 44 Approval, 45 Enough, 46 Gingernuts, 47 Eddy, 48 Adamant, 49 Intone, 50 Utter, 52 Nook, 53 Agitate, 54 Glider, 59 Clever Dick, 61 Taint, 65 Handicap, 66 Fatal, 67 Summons, 70 Recital, 71 Stanza, 72 Crisis, 73 Soothe, 77 Twine, 78 Memo, 79 Ruby, 80 Sour.

5x5

S	O	E		
A	E			
E	H	R		
E	V			
T	E	D		

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

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

Previous solution

New straight Greyhound track to open in February

Greyhound Racing New Zealand is installing a new straight racing track in the middle of the Wanganui Jockey Club grounds. Edward Renell, Chief Executive, says, "The key aim is to reduce the contact that occurs at the first bend in sprint racing, thereby reducing falls and potential injuries. With a straight line to the winning post and supported by preferred box draw racing, where the dogs run according to their traits, we believe there will be less contact and racing incidents."

The straight track will RCP/Mainstreet Christmas winners

The RCP team handed out hundreds of our Christmas Colouring-in and Quiz competitions at the recent Whanganui Christmas Parade — a huge thank you to all the kids who entered. Your artwork brightened our day, and we're heartened to learn, through the quiz answers, how much you all know about Kowhai Park and the town centre. The prize-winners, Korbin, 12 years old, and Kaydence, 7, each have a \$50.00 Mainstreet Gift voucher to spend. Enjoy!

be shorter at 350m, with circular tracks being able to cater better for middle distances (450 to 520m) and long distances (600 to 770m). While there are a number of straight tracks in Victoria, New South Wales and Queensland and it is a key part of greyhound racing in Australia, supporting oval track racing, this Whanganui track is the first in New Zealand. Edward explains the choice of Whanganui as follows: "With Whanganui's oval track closed for renovation, it was agreed a straight track would provide a complementary product and lessen contact and hopefully the injury rate in sprint racing."

He adds, "We are currently exploring options for another straight track in Ashburton to service the Canterbury racing population." However, as with Australia, New Zealand Greyhound Racing sees the future of racing as being a combination of both approaches. "The aim of straight track racing will be to cater for a good percentage of sprint racing." Greyhound racing owners have been "overall supportive and keen to see it introduced for enhanced safety for the greyhounds racing on it. It will be a key component of our racing product in future years."

As for the punters, Edward believes, "Given Australian results, we would expect similar support to oval track racing, particularly as punters get used to the form on the straight track. The aim is to trial the track in late January with totaliser races to commence in February."



The greyhound straight track at Whanganui Racecourse

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from the team at TRC Toyota Whanganui

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Danny Jonas resigns as Sport Whanganui CE

Surf bringing fun, friendships and whanau to Castlecliff Beach

After more than 30 years' service with Sport Whanganui, Danny Jonas is stepping down from his role as Chief Executive in early-2024.

Danny will step down in March 2024 to focus on new opportunities in real estate and is set to take up a position with Property Brokers Whanganui.

"As the CEO for 15 years, I feel the time is right to start a new adventure and in doing so requires me to say goodbye to this role to be able to start another", Danny says.

"During my time at Sport Whanganui I have had the privilege to work alongside all the previous Chief Executives – Larry Graham, the late Gary Stent, Graeme Taylor, and Phil Kearney.

"Having the position of CEO has always felt like a real privilege and I cannot thank the organisation enough for allowing me this opportunity, and the team for their support along the way."

Sport Whanganui Board Chair John Unsworth says the organisation has been fortunate to have someone of Danny's calibre serve to grow and develop the organisation to where it is today.

"It's difficult to put into words the enormous contribution that Danny's made to Sport Whanganui, to the sporting community in Whanganui and to the community across the region. His leadership and service, over many years, has steered Sport Whanganui through periods of great change and uncertainty.

Danny started as Sport Whanganui CEO in 2008 after managing the Splash Centre facility for 9 years. Prior to that he managed pools in Marton, Hunterville, and Taihape and was a tutor in Sport Whanganui sport and recreation programmes, as well as a part-time Kiwi Sport coordinator.

John also highlighted

Danny's skills in building relationships over the years and acknowledges the collaborative, whānau-focused environment Danny has created at Sport Whanganui in his time as CEO.

"The strength of the team has been through the development of a culture that encourages initiative and community service at every level."

"On behalf of the Board, I would like to thank Danny for his leadership and dedication over his term as Chief Executive and wish him all the best for the future."

The recruitment process for the Chief Executive role will begin shortly, with the Board of Sport Whanganui hoping to appoint the new Chief Executive in the first half of 2024.



Danny Jonas

NZ Marist 2023 Women's Player of the Year



Clark Allen, Junior Nepia (Team Coach), Sosoli Talawadua, and Life Members Mike Donoghue, Peter Dunlop and Paul Benefield.

Sosoli Talawadua has been rewarded for her contribution to rugby during the 2023 season, receiving the NZ Marist Rugby 2023 Women's Player of the Year award. This award is presented annually to a selected player from nominations within thirty clubs associated to NZ Marist Rugby national body.

This season, Sosoli has played for the Hurricanes Poua in the Super Rugby Aupiki competition, the Manawatu Cyclones provincial competition and the Whanganui Marist team, who finished as champions in

the Whanganui club competition. In October this year, Sosoli also played in the Samoa Women's team that competed in Capetown, South Africa. In the 2026/17 seasons, Sosoli played for the Black Ferns.

Sosoli has used her vast experience and talents to assist the overall development of the game and overall team outcomes; she is a great role model for inexperienced participants. Sosoli is employed by WRFU and is responsible for game development for women and girls union-wide. Congratulations, Sosoli!



Junior Surf runs at Castlecliff Beach on Sunday mornings throughout summer focusing on fun and friendships to learn and progress skills in our beach environment.

Our youngest group, the 'NipNips', are full of fun. Their session is all about exploring the feel of the waves, learning to dive under them, catching waves on boogie boards and creating fun with whatever the beach conditions throw at us. Our NipNips are 6 and 7-year-olds.

At this age level, most are also working on their pool swimming through lessons at the Splash Cen-

tre. Being on the beach regularly builds their beach knowledge, and our programme adds in the key messages for surf safety.

As parents are on the beach and in the water with their children, it means the whole whānau are building an awareness and becoming confident together. In water, ratios also mean we can work with each child at their level of confidence as they try new skills.

It's so rewarding for our parents, coaches and lifeguards to see the progressions through the programme, from NipNips building Surf confidence

to our 11-year-old Cadets doing their first 200m surf swim.

If you and your children think surf is for you, come down and watch what's happening on a Sunday session, message our Whanganui Junior Surf page to register your interest and join the waitlist to join the programme at NipNips age or right up to 13 years old.

Bowls results

WANGANUI BOWLING CLUB INC

Results from the Hams Tournament - Wednesday, 13 December 2023
2-BOWL TRIPLES, SPONSORS: Sue O'Leary & Stonewood Homes

1st Kevin Burney (s), George Marshall, Garth Hammond; 2nd Garry Petersen (s), Roger Neilson, Murray Watson; 3rd Colin Wright (s), Grant Winterburn, Joe Power; 4th Ray Savage (s), John Dickson, Ewen Noble

Thank you all for your participation.

Tawhero golf results

15 December Friday 9 Hole Haggie STABLEFORD: Daniel Bolton 20, Keith Wilson 20, Joshua Takarangi 19.

16 December 2023 Saturday 18/9 Haggie [STABLEFORD] Ben Potaka 21, Mark Sammons 21, Kayden Shedlock 19.

17 December 2023 Sunday 18 Hole Haggie NET: Horima Potaka 69, Ben Potaka 69, Mark Luke 71.

19 December 2023 Tuesday 9 Hole Monthly Medal Round 3 NET: Men's Division 1: Trevor Sammons 33, Dave Johnston 37. Men's Division 2: John Deighton 41, Bob McIntyre 41. Women's Division 2: Priscilla Fonseka 28, Jean Walsh 30.

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



Zest for Mission looks back on a successful year

About to look at life changes?

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

Alcoholics Anonymous

Phone 0800 229 6757. If you have a drinking problem maybe we can help. AA Wanganui area meeting list: Sunday, St Johns Lutheran Church Hall, 51 Liverpool 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; AI-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.

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.

Do You Have Questions About the Bible?

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

Porridge Watson - What's On This Week

Thursday Quiz Night, last of the year, 7pm. Saturday, Christmas Eve Wild Rumpus 10 in the morning to midnight: Boozy breakfast - Angry Fox will be making cocktails from 10am and Easy Tiger, Breakfast Burgers. Entry fee, \$10.00 on Eventfinda and \$15 on the door.

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.

Zest for Mission, the charity shop in the Avenue, raises funds to support the work of the City Mission. Not counting the two part-time paid staff members - Michele and Gabby - the number of volunteers helping out in the shop or taking the van to pick up or drop off items would be close to 30.

Gabby, who has been there for seven years, says the volunteers "love working here. There is a good atmosphere. Some have been here since Zest for Mission shifted to Victoria Ave. They are loyal, reliable and hard-working."

It hasn't been an easy year for retail, but Gabby says, "We have held our own, thanks to our loyal regular customer base and our generous donors." There was a dip in sales in charity shops in the middle of the year, but it has picked up.

Clothing is always one of their biggest selling sectors, especially as they have some quality designer clothes available. Otherwise, it is home-

Gabby, with Mollie, Jenny and Chris.

ware - cooking utensils, curtains, towels, linen and books.

They have a good range of furniture, from display cabinets, beds, lounge suites and dining tables. Whiteware, especially fridges, sell well.

They accept electrical items but test them first. If they fail within a reasonable period of time they will make a refund. Heaters, microwaves and slow cookers all sell well.

Gabby says, "We get something different every day. We have even had the kitchen sink and laundry tubs."

They offer a free pick-up and will drop items off for a \$10 delivery fee on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

An important attraction is Mollie - Gabby's dog, who comes to work with her. She loves being there and the customers love her. "She has her own fan base," says Gabby and "can sense people's moods, cheering up children and the elderly alike."



LETTER - Israel-Gaza conflict

Dear editor

This is a bit late in the piece I know. I suppose I had hoped someone more qualified would be willing to present another side to the Israel-Gaza conflict. I do so now with apprehension because supporting Israel is passé today. What is more, dare I speak for a people who have been divided themselves on the status of the Palestinians? Why would I, a non-Jew, risk being pilloried for daring to offer another perspective?

Among other reasons, I do so because I believe that the Jews have a historic association to the land they call home. They were living in the land as a nation state, with Jerusalem as its capital, approximately 1000 years before Jesus was born. The Roman army destroyed the nation state in AD70 and exiled many of its inhabitants, but even so a remnant of Jewish people maintained a continuing presence in the land. For over 2000 years, Jews in the diaspora have maintained their cultural and religious identity, and longed for the day when their cry, "Next year in Jerusalem" would be realised.

The return of Jews in the 19th and 20th Centuries was seen by many people as the fulfilment of Bible prophecy and the realisation of the cherished dream of generations.

To some, the establishment of the state of Israel in 1948 and its success in the face of continual existential threat is nothing short of a miracle.

To many others though, the fact that Israel exists at all is a disaster. Over the years, Israel's neighbours,

and now many Palestinians, have sought to destroy Israel. They do not want to accommodate, much less accept Israel's right to exist. The Hamas Charter, for example, explicitly calls for the State of Israel to be destroyed. Such a sentiment lies behind the cry of protesters in Sydney recently who brazenly called out, "Gas the Jews!"

I understand that some may consider these statements to be hyperbolic and justified. I cannot. Even the statement, "From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free" is loaded. Some may try to parrot the phrase, but Israelis believe that Hamas means what they say, as their actions demonstrate. They want Israel destroyed and rendered, Juden Frei.

After previous approaches to this territorial dispute had failed, in good faith the Israeli government evacuated Gaza leaving it for the Gazans to administer. There was the hope that this would be a step toward peace, but rather than build a Middle-Eastern Singapore that provided prosperity and peace for the people, I believe Hamas spent billions of dollars building hundreds of kilometres of tunnels, some even under hospitals and stocking them with weapons with which they have repeatedly attacked Israel. This ongoing conflict has been costly to the lives of people who live both in Gaza and Israel.

It is a human tragedy that thousands have been killed in Gaza over these past few weeks. That said, too quickly we forget the barbaric attack on Israel that began the present round of conflict. The October 7th invasion was beastial; innocent civilians were

murdered in their homes or while attending a music festival. Some were decapitated or shot. Women and men were also savagely raped and brutalised.

As it happens, on the day of the attack, I was hosting five Israelis. I will not forget their distress. One of them was from a kibbutz that had been attacked. His own sister and her boyfriend had narrowly escaped death, but so many others did not survive. Over 1,100 people were killed while others, including infants and children were taken as hostages to Gaza.

Apart from the tragedy of this war for so many in Israel, I am concerned for the Jewish people I have read about in New Zealand and around the world who now feel anxious and concerned for their safety because of widespread anti-Israel sentiment. Israel is not perfect for sure, but there are many within Israel, who want peace and have tried to do the things that make for peace. In fact, some of the kibbutz communities that were attacked had been helping the people of Gaza by providing them employment and driving those who needed specialised medical care to Israeli hospitals for treatment. Perhaps, before you join the hate-fest dumping on Israel, think for a moment, just what would you do if your neighbours were determined to kill you and your family?

It seems to me we have still so much to learn as a human family from Jesus, the one whom the angels announced to be the Prince of Peace, but whose way, for the most part, we choose not to know!

- Rev. David Bebarfald Edited

This is our last publication for the year. Our next paper is January 18.

Emails will be checked regularly on riverscitypress@xtra.co.nz

Wishing all our readers, contributors and advertisers a wonderful Christmas



Sadly passed away recently...

Barbara Ivy Laura BENNETT, on 17 December 2023, aged 88 years.

Robert Graeme (Graeme) CLINTON, on 13 December 2023.

Leighton Kelly FORREST, on 16 December 2023, aged 63 years.

Emma GRAY, on 13 December 2023, aged 67 years.

Joan Patricia (nee Armishaw) HAMMOND, on 17 December 2023, aged 92 years.

Jennifer Raewyn (Jenny) HARTLEY, on 11 December 2023, aged 71 years.

Alan Robert PARIS, on 10 December, aged 78 years.

Kerri PIDDING, on 7 December 2023, aged 93 years.

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Local artist treated gratis by Auckland Charity Hospital



Chris Moisa (centre) with medical staff

At the beginning of the second week of November of this year, I travelled to Auckland to have a Cataract / Refractive Lens Exchange Procedure that has now restored the vision of my left eye.

As an artist, photographer and writer, I found during the last year that my eyesight was rapidly deteriorating. The right eye more than the left. I was scheduled to have a cataract operation at our public hospital, but it was called off the last minute because it was felt that the macular degeneration was too far advanced and an operation would not contribute enough to make it worthwhile. I was put on a vitamin regimen with the hope that the macular degeneration may be stabilized. My next appointment was in January 2024.

My optometrist Ian Russell from Spec Savers suggested that he could apply on my behalf to the Charity Hospital in Auckland to at least perform the cataract operation on my left eye not only to help facilitate my creative endeavors but also to save my driver's license which was due for renewal on my birthday in December.

The Auckland Regional Charity Hospital is a vir-

tual hospital that has no premises. Operations are scheduled and carried out in available operating theatres in Auckland's private medical sector. Donations pay for the use of the theatre, and surgeons, anesthesiologists and nurses give their time and expertise gratis. Applications are accepted from people who would benefit from such a procedure but are turned down for whatever reason by the public health system or who cannot afford a private operation.

Ian Russell's advocacy gained me an operating spot, and all I needed to do was travel to Auckland for three days. On the first day, I had a thorough eye examination and had the operation explained. Apparently I was legally blind. On the second day, during a painless twenty-minute procedure, I was operated on after a local anesthetic gel was used to numb the surface before the hazy lens was replaced. On the third, I was checked to make sure that all was well and discharged.

Luckily for me I was looked after by several lifelong friends so the incidental costs were minimal. The most expensive part was the air flight to and from Auckland.

I was pleasantly surprised to find that

re:vision, the clinic that Dr Trevor Gray and his fellow surgeons and nurses run is a state-of-the-art day clinic not far from the Silvia Park Mall in South Auckland. Their point of difference, other than offering a world-class standard of care, is their shoes that gives rise to their acronym THE RED TEAM. A clever branding exercise which for me, a former teacher of design, jarred a little with my aesthetic sensibilities as isn't blood also red? However, I assure you there was no blood in sight and I can also assure you that I am a very happy recipient of their expertise and heartfelt generosity.

If anyone wants to make a donation, please contact Auckland Regional Charity Hospital Trust "ARCH" Postal Address PO Box 301314, Albany, North Shore City, Auckland, 0752

supplied - Christodoulos Moisa
Christodoulos Moisa is an artist, photographer, poet and novelist and was Head of the Arts and Art at Whanganui Girls's College.

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PUBLIC NOTICES



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PUBLIC NOTICES

TUNE into City Magic 106.9FM from Saturday 30th December. Old Radio Countdowns, old Serials, music documentaries. Sundays 8.00am Woman to Woman. 12pm Dick Clark, segments on sport's community events, American Top 40s. Feedback 021 216 0886, requests. Broadcasting Durie Hill.

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PUBLIC NOTICES / ENTERTAINMENT



Plan Change 60 (Miscellaneous 2)

Decision on submissions

Whanganui District Council has made its decision on submissions to Plan Change 60 (Miscellaneous 2) to the operative Whanganui District Plan (Clause 10, First Schedule, Resource Management Act 1991).

Plan Change 60 covers a number of minor matters including:

- the simplifying of zones on some properties identified as having more than one zone
- clarification of rules for height in relation to boundary, minor residential units and vehicle crossings
- policy alignment for highly productive land
- additions to the protected tree schedule with modification to the rules of protected trees
- typographical and numbering amendments.

The council has made its decision on the provisions and matters raised in submissions, and the District Plan is deemed to have been amended in accordance with this decision on Wednesday, 13 December 2023. The period for lodging appeals against the council's decision closes at 4.00pm on Friday, 9 February 2024.

A copy of the decision can be viewed at: www.whanganui.govt.nz/plan-change-60 together with the following information:

- details of the decision and reasons for each submission
- District Plan text and planning maps as amended
- Section 32 evaluation report.

To view a hard-copy of the council decision or for any other queries, please email: PlanningPolicy@whanganui.govt.nz or call 06 349 0001.

David Langford
Chief Executive
20 December 2023

www.whanganui.govt.nz

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Work Functions, Family Gatherings or a Group of Friends for a Christmas Buffet!
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with a fabulous Christmas lunch!
11am-12.30pm
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(Afternoon session sold out)
Members and guests welcome

On behalf of Leroy and Kush we would like to thank everyone for their support with dining with us and we have enjoyed all the wonderful people we have had the privilege of meeting.

Thanks for the stories and the laughs.

To our wonderful staff who have been on this journey with us, we also thank you so much!

We wish everyone a very *Merry Christmas*

CLUB metro 13 Ridgway Street Wanganui

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Wishing all our readers a wonderful Christmas

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31st December
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Are your firearms safe and secure over the summer break?



Mike McIlraith, Director of Partnerships, Te Tari Pūreke

"Getting ready to head away for holidays can be a stressful time", says Mike McIlraith, Director of Partnerships for Te Tari Pūreke – Firearms Safety Authority. "It's important to take time to consider how firearms and ammunition will be transported, stored, and used safely during your holidays," says Mike McIlraith, Director of Partnerships for Te Tari Pūreke – Firearms Safety Authority.

"Here are a few top safety and security tips to have in mind over your holidays:"

Travelling with firearms

"Firearms can never be left in a vehicle overnight. So, if you pack the vehicle the night before, for an early start in the morning, make sure you leave time and space, and pack your firearm just before you travel. Firearms must be transported out of sight. Dedicate a spot in the vehicle where they can't be seen if someone looks through the window.

Firearms must either be inoperable (bolt out or trigger lock in) or in a locked container when travelling. Do both where you can.

Ammunition must be transported separately to the firearm, and in a locked container if practical. This will make it more difficult to access both the firearm and ammunition if someone breaks into your vehicle.

Firearms can only be left unattended in a locked vehicle for 60 minutes (while you're nearby). So, plan your meal and rest breaks accordingly.

Storing firearms so they don't get into the wrong hands. Think about what you'll do with your firearm once you get to your holiday destination. If you're staying with friends and family who own firearms, ask to use their storage.

If you use a regular hut or bach, install a gun safe, a firearm rack or secure cable system.

Steel cables and padlocks can help secure your firearm to the framing of a building, pipes or built in furniture. Store ammunition separately to your firearm.

Add safety to your essential summer reading list

The Firearms Safety Code is as important to New Zealand's 230,000 firearms licence holders, as the Road Code is to New Zealand drivers and it's recently been overhauled and republished.

To brush up on your firearms safety over the summer holidays, you can download a copy free from firearmsafetyauthority.govt.nz. Or pick one up from any good bookstore, specialist retailer like Gun City, online retailer like Fish Pond or from your local library.

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Celebrate The reason for the Season



Hidden gift in Whanganui

It's awkward to write a newspaper article about Christmas when the first Christmas seemed all most uneventful. No one noticed as a teenage girl and her husband sneaked through the back streets of Bethlehem into a stable. No one took note, no one took offense. Why? "Here within the manger lies, the one who built the starry skies".

The most powerful being arrived on earth, hidden.

Today, public leaders spend a fortune on marketing campaigns and self-promotion, seeking to gain power and influence. But when God became human, only a handful of people noticed. What was He thinking? This makes no sense; shouldn't he have been announced in every town in Israel? Or why didn't he come now, when his birth could have been livestreamed to the world?

Why? Because he was thinking about you. He was thinking about me. The last thing we needed was something forced upon us. God always comes to us in a



Co-Vicar Caleb Rowe

way that means we can choose Him or not. He came hidden and small and gentle because love is an invitation. As the old carol goes: "How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is given, so God imparts to human

hearts the blessings of His heaven, no ear may hear His coming, yet in this world of sin, where meek souls will seek him still the dear Christ enters in".

I wonder if you have ever been to a Christmas service in a church here in Whanganui. They happen every year, there are heaps of them. Down the back streets of Whanganui, carols are sung and the stories are told of a God who came so small and inconspicuous so that if you are interested to hear his message, you can hear him say: you are loved. Deeply and truly.

That's the truest gift of Christmas. It is a thrill of hope. Why not pop into a service this Christmas and hear this message for yourself. God bless you and Meri Kirihimete. Supplied - Co-Vicar Caleb Rowe

MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM THE CATHOLIC PARISH OF WHANGANUI

Christmas Eve Vigil Masses
7.00pm - St Mary's
9.30pm - Holy Family

Christmas Day Masses
9.30am - St Mary's
10.30am - Kaiwhaiki Marae

Unearthing priceless Christmas bounty

We can all picture the treasure hunter going to great lengths to uncover a priceless fortune. He'll cross land and sea, brave many dangers, and spend his energy to the last joule scrounging, digging, and clearing away dirt and debris until at last, he can grasp the true meaning of the X on the map.

Every year, there's a pile of commercial, profit-driven clutter for us clear away to behold the true and priceless meaning of Xmas. Rest from work, and time with family are still only a shadow of what Christmas is all about.

Yes, Christmas is about a gift, the ultimate gift from God. Yes, Christmas is about rest, rest in Christ from our futile attempts to prove ourselves; and yes, Christmas is about family, God establishing his family by grace alone, through faith alone in Christ alone.

Christmas speaks to the heart of the human identity, predicament, and purpose, all finding fulfilment in Jesus Christ, God's gift and man's Saviour. For the Son of God was born a man, that man may be born of God and have life eternal. Therein lies the sole hope of humanity that transcends materialistic clutter, broken dreams, and the full stop of death.

Pastor Josh Pound
Whanganui Central Baptist Church

Celebrate The reason for the Season



The joy of Christmas Merry Christmas from the hospital chaplain

"It's the most wonderful time of the year..." as the song goes.

Christmas is such a special time as we decorate the tree, hang the wreath on the door, wrap the presents and fill the stockings. We make gingerbread cookies for sharing with family and friends, as the familiar sound of carols waltz in on the airwaves. The smell of pine and fruit cake. Lights and tinsel. Excited children counting down the days ... Christmas is nearly here!

But Christmas is more than presents and sparkly trees. The joy of Christmas goes deeper than the taste of gingerbread, the happiness on a child's face, or the time spent with family. It is the deeper mystery and meaning of Christ's birth.

And while most people think of Christmas with a sweet little baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger – stories of sheep and shepherds, angels and singing, wise-men and gifts bringing joy to our heart

– the joy of Christmas comes from why Jesus was born in the first place. It comes from what Jesus came to do. He didn't come simply to be a precious baby. He came to be our Messiah, our Saviour. He came to bring forgiveness for our sins and give us eternal life with him.

This is good news, wonderful news, which fills our hearts with awe and wonder.

Like the shepherds in the fields, we should rejoice at the announcement the choir of angels brought, "But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord." (Luke 2:10-11)

As we celebrate the birth of Jesus this Christmas, let us ponder that this baby was born for the purpose of our redemption and forgiveness of our sins.

This is the true Joy of Christmas.

"Warm greetings to you in the name our Lord Jesus Christ" – Ngā mihi tino mahana kia koe i runga i te ingoa o Ihu Karaiti ta mātou Ariki.

As the year draws to a close, I want to acknowledge the dedication of all chaplains who work in various capacities in their organisations. I also would like to express my gratitude to the Voluntary Chaplaincy Assistants, Locum Chaplains and the Church visitors who support Chaplaincy work in our hospital. I am so grateful to the locum Chaplains who will be on call during Christmas period. I hope your Christmas is as wonderful as you are. I truly consider you a blessing.

Church Visitors: A team of volunteers from Anglican Parish of Whanganui visits the patients on a regular basis which is highly appreciated. May I appeal to other churches in Whanganui to organise something similar which will enhance hospital visits? Our patients are JESUS to us.

Chapel: After a long break due to COVID, Sunday Services at the hospital resumed this year in the month of July. During the day, many staff members, patients and families visit the Chapel. They spend quiet time. We offer time of prayer with them and several visitors request for prayer and blessings.

Carols at the hospital: This Christmas we resumed traditional CAROL SINGING around the

wards in the hospital. I am grateful the local Chairs WHANGNAUI COMMUNITY CHOIR and LYRIC SINGERS for their support. In addition to the Choir members, there were several people from local Churches and hospital staff members who came along to add to the Christmas CHEER. We had a strong team of around forty-five singers. We had a had ice cream, strawberries, and Christmas mince pies for supper, thankfully provided by the hospital.

PEACE: Let us remember the innocent families who have become victims of the cruel wars around the world and pray for their safety. May God bring PEACE to the world and specially to the

regions torn by war.

The true spirit of Christmas lies in our hearts that we share with our family, friends, patients, and strangers through the year. May this Christmas end the year on a cheerful note and make way for a fresh and bright New Year.

I pray that you have a safe and relaxing holiday season.

On behalf of all the members of Whanganui Chaplaincy committee, I wish you all a wonderful Christmas.

Blessings,
Ngā mihi nui,
Rev Amail Habib
Lead – Coordinating
Chaplain - Whanganui
Hospital
Ko te Atua te wai o te ora | God is the River of LIFE



Jesus' Birthday Party
Christmas Day
9.30am, 25th December 2023
Come along and celebrate with us Jesus' birthday including morning tea and birthday cake.
Children are welcome to bring along a gift they've received to show.
4 Indus Street, Whanganui



The wise men sought baby King Jesus to worship.
Matthew 2:2
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Christmas Eve - 10am
Christmas Day - 9.30am

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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

"The Reason for the Season"
Merry Christmas
from the Whanganui Chaplaincy Committee
Chaplain: Rev Amail Habib
CHRISTMAS SERVICE
24 December 2023, 10am
NO SERVICE CHRISTMAS DAY IN THE CHAPEL



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