



52 Ingestre Street, Whanganui. Phone 345 3666 or 345 3655, email rivercitypress@xtra.co.nz

Alistair Fraser is promoting Digital Inclusion programmes in Whanganui

BY DOUG DAVIDSON

Alistair Fraser came here 20 years ago to complete a post graduate diploma in computer graphic design and instead of returning home to the Kapiti Coast, he felt Whanganui was so special he decided to stay on. The following year, he got the role of facilitating and coordinating the Whanganui Computers in Homes (CIH) programme from when it began in 2006 until 2012, then continued to work with the national CIH group until central government stopped funding in 2017.

When the Digital Inclusion Alliance Aotearoa (DIAA) started in 2018, Alistair became a contractor and team member.

He explains: "The DIAA works collaboratively with the digital inclusion sector, providing Stepping UP programmes

and resources for more than 360 'front of house' delivery partners. These programmes include Digital Steps, Better Digital Futures, Digital Skills for Seniors, DORA and Skinny Jump."

Alistair is proud of the huge positive social and

economic outcomes the programmes have produced for New Zealanders. For the 2022 to 2023 year, there were over 20,000 participants.

One of Alistair's roles in DIAA has been as a driver/host on DORA their mobile digital training bus. DORA is a vintage 7+ ton refurbished school bus, originally built in 1985.

He explains: "We take DORA all around New Zealand for our partners to use, including to our remote and rural heartland communities. With bank closures and difficulties traveling due to COVID, demand for help to get online is huge."

Whilst his work for DIAA as a digital ambassador is NZ-wide, Alistair enjoys supporting DIAA's local partners: Whanganui Libraries, Age Concern Whanganui and the Whanganui Learning Centre.

He hopes the Council will significantly strengthen and update its Digital Strategy, set in 2019 to

incorporate new digital technologies and, in particular, generative artificial intelligence (GAI). He says, "Use of GAI has really taken off and is causing unprecedented technological disruption, and will radically transform our lives for better and worse."

Microsoft founder Bill Gates has predicted everyone will have a GAI-powered personal assistant within 5 years. Understandably Alistair says, "We need to have digital inclusion programmes in place urgently to ensure everyone has equal opportunities to use developing technologies like these and of the wider benefits such as for our health with artificial-driven support apps and devices."

"It is not just about charity and ensuring those who are really needy receive help, compelling as this justification alone is. There is a huge economic outcome from digital inclusion interventions as well."



Rachel Smith, Learning & Discovery Librarian, Whanganui District Library, and Alistair Fraser meet up at the Alexander Library to discuss the new free course: Digital Skills for Seniors to start in February.

This is backed up by a 2023 report from Spark Foundation, which says, "The economic benefits of being digitally included are estimated to be between \$3.10 to \$3.60 for every dollar invested." The report estimates be-

tween \$464m and \$737m in economic benefits if the remaining 130,300 households (around 7%) were connected to the internet. Relating this to Whanganui, Alistair estimates there are around 1,250 households here uncon-

nected. This represents a considerable lost economic opportunity for our community, easily upwards of \$5m." However, this is just one aspect of the digital inclusion 'sinkhole.'

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Check out what's in this week's RCP

The importance of digital inclusion for New Zealanders is underlined by the threats and promises of AI as well as the social and economic benefits of people having access to the internet and to be confident in using it. Alistair Fraser has been working in this area for a number of years and comments from his experience. (See our front page article)

Turakina will be hosting its 159th Highland Games this Saturday, the oldest sporting/cultural festival in the country. Congratulations (page 15).

Congratulations also to the Sovereign United Church for three years of hosting a BBQ meal at Majestic Square for the past three years (page 2).

U3A (University of the Third Age) offer



Doug Davidson
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a wide range of group activities as well as a series on the mind with recorded presentations from some of the top experts in the world (page 14).

The end of the Summer Programme is coming up. There are still opportunities to go to a talk or join a trip (page 3).
- Doug Davidson

Free food at Majestic Square celebrates three years

For the past three years, a group of local people have been providing free food at Majestic Square on Wednesday evenings from 5.15 to 6.45pm. While sausages on buns or wholemeal bread is the staple, there is plenty of other food on offer, including baking, scones, biscuits, pies and sausages rolls – donated by Savages Bakery – sugar free drinks and even sometimes fruit.

This week they celebrated three years of providing free food. The idea came from Murray of Murray's Emporium. He says, "We could see how people were struggling to cope with increased rents, petrol prices and the cost of food."

Murray was soon joined by fellow businessmen Leo Respingier and Brian Wick, and supported by members of the United Sovereign Church, who fully fund the food from donations from members. The event is now named after the Church.

One member brings along a range of greens to go with the buns, and



Helpers at the United Sovereign Church BBQ last Wednesday evening.

Beth from Riverside Church brings a big pot of soup.

The group of about eight start preparing at about 5.00, and the load is getting bigger all the time. The focus, in the beginning, was for homeless people, but

now they have a range of people coming, including families. They can get up to 150 each night with a combination of regulars and those that

come off and on.

United Sovereign Church was established about a year ago, meeting early on a Sunday evening. Murray says,

"Our numbers are steadily growing, bucking the trend of falling church membership elsewhere. On average we get 60 to 80 people."

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Ziva breaks more swimming records

Whanganui swimmer Ziva Bunker continued her record-breaking form at the Rotorua 'Summer Sizzler' meet that was held on 20 January. Ziva broke the Whanganui long course 400 metre freestyle record for 11-year-old girls, clocking 5:28.91, taking 15.58 seconds off the previous record set by Kate O'Fee in 2009. This capped off a January where Ziva spent a week training with the Kiwi West Swim Team who are based in Palmerston North at their Rotorua swim camp, competed in the 1km Epic open water swim that was held in Taupō on 13 January, and enjoyed time training with the Taupo Swimming Team.

Ziva has now settled back into training under the eye of former Olympic Swimmer Richard Gheel alongside the Whanganui Swim Team, and along with the team, they have their sights set on the upcoming Manawātū Age Group and Open Champs in February and March.

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2024 Summer Programme on a roll

Good weather and enthusiastic supporters are contributing to a successful 2024 Whanganui Summer Programme, says trustee David Scoullar. "We are winding down but we still have interesting events to come," he says.

The remaining programme is:-

Friday 26 January - Heritage Tram Rides

Tram Number 12, 'Mable' was donated to the city in 2007 and lovingly restored by volunteers. From 29 Taupō Quay take a ride back in time along the riverbank between 10am and 12.30pm. Pay

at the tram shed.

Adult \$5, Child free. Saturday 27 January - Gumboot Day

Head to Taihape for the Gumboot Day throwing competition. A chance to have a go, experience an old-style show day and explore Taihape. Short stops at Utiku, Mangaweka, Hunterville and at a heritage house at Turakina complete the day.

Depart 8.30am. Return approx 5.30pm. Adult \$46, Child \$22.

Sturdy footwear and rainwear. BYO morning tea and lunch.

Sunday 28 January - Glass Blowing Show-cased

Join internationally known glass blower Katie Brown at the Whanganui Regional Museum as she discusses her creative process. Katie will be in the Davis Theatre followed by a show and tell of her latest works while enjoying a cool beverage. 3pm-4.30pm

Wheelchair access. Koha appreciated. Bookings essential. Book directly with the museum. Tel 06 349 1110.

Sunday 28 January - Hipango Park Excursion

The MV Wairua's trip to Hipango Park remains popular. Tables

are available for lunch otherwise bring rugs to sit on and a jacket for the river trip. A barbecue is available for use and complimentary tea/coffee/juice and biscuits on the upstream journey.

A reasonable standard of mobility and fitness is required due to uneven ground, stairs and unpaved tracks. BYO lunch, snack and drinks. Depart 10am MV

Wairua pontoon opposite Pakaitore/Moutoa Gardens. Return approx 4.30pm. Adult \$78, Child (5-15) \$29, Under 5 free, Family (2 adults 2 children) \$185. Passengers must report no later than 9.45am.

Monday 29 January - Rangitikei Heritage Tour

John Vickers leads a tour of Rangitikei homesteads dating from 1870 to 1920 including Westhoe, Heaton Park, one mystery visit and the Tutu Totara Church. An interesting day out discussing the houses and their stories.

BYO lunch, snacks and drinks. Boiling water and milk provided. Bring a deck chair if you wish. Depart 9am. Return approx 5pm. Adult \$75, Child \$40.

Tuesday 30 January - Evening talk: Public Transport

Whanganui has a rich and innovative history of public transport. Durie Hill Elevator operator and public transport advocate Anthonie Tonnou will speak about how this has shaped his work. Starts 7.30pm. Davis Theatre, Whanganui Regional Museum, Watt Street. Adult \$5 cash,



Enjoying the South Taranaki heritage tour. A heritage tour to Rangitikei is scheduled for this coming Monday.

Child free. No booking necessary although numbers are limited. Wheelchair access.

Wednesday 31 January - Parikino Forest

Visit and learn about a 6.4ha piece of threat-

ened lowland kahikatea forest which has been fenced and is now regenerating. A short walk across farmland. Bring lunch, sturdy shoes or gumboots and rainwear. Depart 10am. Return

approx 2pm. Adult \$18, Child \$10.

Bookings for summer programme events can be made online at www.iticket.co.nz or at the Whanganui isite visitor centre.

Alistair Fraser is promoting Digital Inclusion programmes in Whanganui

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A 2021 BNZ Skills report found 700,000 adult New Zealanders – about 20% – lack the essential digital skills they need to use the internet safely and effectively.

Alistair says, "This is one in every five of us. No wonder Nigel Latta's recently TV programme, 'You've been scanned' was so needed and popular."

Digital literacy hasn't mattered so much in the past, but now it has become essential for job seekers to possess at least foundation-level digital skills to work.

It is of course a worldwide issue. The World Economic Forum's Future of Jobs 2023 report, expects globally, six in ten workers will require training before 2027, but

only half of workers are seen to have access to adequate training opportunities.

What can be done? Alistair gives the example of the Ōtautahi Community Housing Trust which manages the Christchurch City Council-owned community housing properties. It provides a free internet access programme, if required, for all tenants and free digital skills training.

In Whanganui, Alistair says, "There are around 590 social housing properties in the Whanganui region. About 290 of these are pensioner flats owned by the Whanganui District Council. Many of the tenants are not likely to be connected to the internet or not have the skills and confidence. Assisting these people will benefit

everyone."

He argues that "We need to get some action organised urgently now. Unfortunately, local authorities and central governments take years to respond to demand. However, digital technology especially artificial intelligence is evolving so quickly that by the time needs are appropriately recognized and actioned it is/will be too late."

Alistair says, "We are lucky in Whanganui to have some extremely talented digital 'players'. It is great see a new Whanganui Tech Network group start in 2023. The future is digital, so digital inclusion and digital equity must be given plenty of attention to ensure EVERYONE can reach their potential to be successful."



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Whanganui Collegiate School proudly welcomes new directors of hockey and netball

Whanganui Collegiate School has appointed Jay Punga and Elise Niu as the Directors of Hockey and Netball, respectively. These appointments mark an exciting advancement for the school's sports programme, with both individuals bringing extensive experience, passion, and energy to their respective roles. Jay Punga is a highly respected figure within New Zealand hockey circles, boasting an impressive coaching and playing background.

His commitment to nurturing young talent and a proven record of success at regional and national levels make him an invaluable addition to our school. With a distinguished playing career, including representation for Auckland and New Zealand Māori (as Captain), Jay is well-equipped to develop and elevate the skills of our WCS hockey players. Jay's coaching tenure spans numerous achievements, notably as Club Coach of Wind-

sor Grammar, Head Coach of St Peter's College, and coaching roles within Auckland U18 & NHC Development teams. His experience as Assistant Coach for the New Zealand Black Sticks (Women) and Head Coach for Auckland Women NHC and New Zealand Pasifika Women positions him as an influential asset for the future of our hockey program said Shane Gaffney, Director of Sport.

Elise Niu brings a wealth of experience and success in netball and Touch Rugby, having represented Aotearoa Māori Netball, and excelled in provincial Netball for Taranaki. Her coaching journey includes national representation in Touch Rugby, complemented by a coaching philosophy centered on holistic athlete development, emphasizing mental and physical preparedness.

Elise's coaching acumen, fortified by qualifications such as a Level 4 Certificate in Sport Development, a Diploma in Health Promotion, Sports, and Exercise Science, as well as being a Master Fitness Trainer, makes her ideally suited to significantly impact our netball program. Her commitment to empow-

ering young athletes resonates deeply with the values of Whanganui Collegiate School said Shane Gaffney.

"We are thrilled to welcome Jay and Elise to our Whanganui Collegiate School community. Their dedication to sports excellence aligns with our vision of providing a unique sports experience for our students, said Wayne Brown, Headmaster.

"The entire school community eagerly anticipates the positive impact that Jay and Elise will have on our hockey and netball programs," he said.



Elise Niu, new WCS Director of Netball



Jay Punga, new WCS Director of Hockey

Series of movies at Josephite's as part of La Fiesta

As part of the La Fiesta programme, the Josephite Retreat Centre at 14 Hillside Tee, St Johns Hill, will be showing a series of four films each Tuesday, starting on 13 February.

This first one is 'God of the Piano' described by Stuff's film critic Graeme Tuckett as "A precise drama that packs a powerful emotional punch." It was produced in 2019 and runs for 80 minutes. It is in Hebrew with English subtitles.

A summary is as follows:

"For Anat, music is everything. Having never been able to reach her father's musical standards, she rests her hopes on the child she's about to have. A compelling and enigmatic story which presents some challenging ideas about family relationships."

The other films are:
February 20: The Quiet Girl

February 27: Sophie Scholl: The Final Days
March 5: Babette's Feast



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Many other problems can wait, especially if the symptoms are mild or have been present already for a long time and have not suddenly worsened. If you are concerned about your pet after-hours, your veterinarian can provide advice over the phone and help you to decide if your pet can wait to be seen until open hours.

Remember, it is easier and safer to treat most conditions earlier, before the symptoms worsen, so calling your vet as soon as you are concerned is often your safest option.

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Auditions next week for "Letters from the Titanic" show

After the success of their first Musical, Heathers, Whanganui Performing Arts is proud to announce its next production.

In a dynamic convergence of entertainment and opportunity, Whanganui's vibrant theatre scene is buzzing with excitement as a new show prepares to take centre stage. Simultaneously, the call for auditions is echoing through the community, beckoning aspiring talents to step into the spotlight and be part of the theatrical magic.

"Letters from the Titanic" is all about the tragic 1912 disaster: the sinking of the Titanic. Depicting stories from before, during and after the ill-fated night. While the details of the plot are being kept under wraps to enhance the element of surprise, insiders have hinted at a narrative that explores the intricacies of human relationships, the pursuit of dreams, and the triumph of the human spirit. With a script that seamlessly weaves together laughter and tears, "Letters from the Titanic" is poised to strike a chord with a diverse audience.

The creative team is not only seeking exceptional

talent but also individuals who are passionate, committed, and ready to contribute to the collaborative spirit of the theatrical arts.

Our Director, Megan Hartley, is looking for drama enthusiasts for character roles of 15 years old minimum at time of performance, no upper age limit. A range of UK, European and American accents, all levels of 1912 working classes and upper classes. Some children's roles may be included if required.

Our Musical Director, Dave Griffiths is keen to hear from musicians, especially those familiar with ragtime and classical.

Production Manager Hayley Sellars is on the hunt for the backstage dream team. Lighting, sound, props and set crews.

Theatre Company: Whanganui Performing Arts

Theatre Venue: Repertory Whanganui

Auditions: 3rd February 2024.

Show: Thurs 18th, Fri 19th, Sat 20th, Sunday 21st April 2024.

Interested individuals can register for auditions by emailing the Production Manager. Limited



A practice rehearsal for a previous show

walk-ins are also welcome on the audition dates.

Email: whanganui_performingarts@gmail.com

So, step into the limelight, embrace the challenge, and let your talents shine. The stage is set, the audience is ready, and the creative team is eager to discover the unique voices and skills that will bring "Letters from the Titanic" to life.

Looking ahead to October, Whanganui Performing Arts also will see the curtain rise for their annual musical, The Addams Family. It's not just a show; it's an experience.

Fond memories of Whetu Mareikura

The RCP article (January 18), which sadly recorded the passing of Whetu Mareikura, has sparked fond memories of the player for Whanganui Rugby Union life member Brian Vaughan.

Brian's recall emphasises the high promise Whetu showed as a rugby player at the age group level.

A Whanganui under-16 age group team coached by Brian Vaughan and Gary Mitchell had the rare distinction of winning a Central Districts tournament, which included teams from Wellington, Wairarapa Bush, Horowhenua, Poverty Bay, Manawatū, Hawke's Bay and East Coast.

Whetu played a key role for Whanganui as it went through the tournament in Wellington unbeaten.

Whetu had controlled the play, Brian said, combining in the halves with another astute and promising player, Kelvin Chase.

The successful Whanganui age group team attracted special interest because, for the first time, Collegiate School had released players for selection for a Whanganui rep rugby team.

Brian Vaughan broke new ground when he convinced Collegiate School's headmaster, Tom Wells, that the school's players should be available for Whanganui union teams. Consequently, the Whanganui age group side gained in strength. Collegiate players in the successful team included the captain, Rod Parsons.

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Healing Rooms for Whanganui about to start

Museum's Muslin dress shows romantic summer style



Some members of the Healing Team.

The Healing Rooms team held a meeting in October 2023 to discuss the possibility of setting up Healing Rooms in Whanganui. Local Churches were notified, and there was an article in the RCP.

Beth Slattery from the group says, "It was really encouraging to see the venue filling up with people who had a desire to be part of the ministry, some with Healing Rooms experience and others hearing about it for the first time."

The next step is to have a prayer team training day, which is planned for Saturday, 3 February. At this training day there will be the Director of Healing Rooms NZ, Rhonda Puddle coming down with a team to facilitate the training from Healing Rooms at 'The Village Church' in Hamilton as well as John Daysh from the Wellington Cathedral Healing Rooms.

Beth says, "Everyone is welcome to attend. The Healing Rooms NZ

Training Manual costs \$15.00, and we will take up an 'offering' to support the training work of Healing Rooms NZ." The venue is Riverside Christian Church, 4 Ingestre Street, next to the river, and registrations will open at 9am, with training starting at 9.30.

The first 'Healing Room' was opened in Spokane, Washington, 109 years ago by John G Lake, who called together men and women of faith in Spokane and trained them to pray in teams for the sick. This ministry, with over 100,000 recorded healing testimonies being documented, led to the formation of the International Association of Healing Rooms (IAHR), which has provided training, support and connection for over 3,000 Healing Rooms worldwide.

The vision of IAHR is to see Healing Rooms in every town and every city, where people from all walks of life can visit and receive prayer ministry in a loving, safe, confidential environment. "Some people are healed instantly by a miraculous touch from God and others receive

their healing progressively over time."

The team here in Whanganui are currently looking for suitable premises to set up Healing Rooms, preferably close to the CBD area of town. For more information on Healing Rooms, or to register for the training day please email whanganui.healingrooms@gmail.com.



From left: Kaihāpai Taonga/Collections and Curatorial Lead Trish Nugent-Lyne and Kaiawhina/Collections Assistant, Kathy Greensides

By Karen Hughes

Whanganui Regional Museum resumes its Outfit of the Month series next month with a fine cotton muslin dress that dates from the early 1840s.

The dress selected for February is made from a self-striped cotton muslin that has been printed with six colours, using a mix of rolling and hand blocking.

Kaihāpai Taonga/Collections and Curatorial Lead, Trish Nugent-Lyne said the origin of the dress is unknown. "A label inside tells me that this dress came from the Wanganui Repertory Theatre, so we are not sure who the original owner or wearer was,

but we know that she was tiny. She would have been 5ft or less (about 150cm) and with a 21-inch (53cm) waist." The dress is entirely hand sewn.

Trish Nugent-Lyne will present and discuss the dress with an informal public talk. Members of the public are invited to hear her presentation in the Museum at 12.15 on Friday 26th January.

Entry to the event is free. Koha for the Museum is always appreciated. No booking is required, and all are welcome – meet in the Atrium. The dress will be on display in the Museum throughout February.

~ Burma Rally results ~

The Burma Rally was run by the Whanganui Vintage Car Club on Monday of the Vintage weekend. The results are as follows:

Best dressed lady - Wendy Ryland, Whanganui

Best dress man - Alastair McCarthy, Wellington
Veteran Class 1 - Winner no 4 Chris and Leon Lawrence from Waiuku 1913 Ford Model T Roadster

Vintage class 4 - Winner No 38 Barry and Hilary Pettengell, Wellington, 1926 Chrysler 'Finer 70'. Runner up - No 40 Pat Tasker & Justin Harding, Whanganui, 1929 Plymouth Model Q



photos from Whanganui Vintage Car Club's facebook page

Post Vintage Class 5 - Winner No 79 Pat & Sandra Carrick, Whanganui, 1935 Morris 8. Runner up No 11 Rob & Allie Law, Raumati, 1938 Drophead Coupe

Post War Cars Class 8 - Winner No 54 Ian Chamberlain and Felicity Lawrence, Whanganui, 1954 Zepher Mk1. Runner up No 9, Jim Billy & Mary-Ann Vandyk, Whanganui, 1955 Zepher Mk1

Commercial Class 10 - Winner No 33 Peter & Robin Hadley, Whakatane, 1947 Jaiibar Pickup. Runner up No 17 Alan Muir & Karen Goodge, Marton, 1926 Model T Roadster Pickup

Post 1960 Class 11 - Winner No 7 Vernon Heath and Viv Spiers, Horowhenua, 1964 Saab 96. Runner up No 58 Chris White & Geraldine Askew, Upper Hutt, 1968

Volkswagon Beetle
Post 1980 Class 12 - Winner No 29 Steve and Joy Growden, Whakatane, 1982 Ford Cortina. Runner up No 67 Andrew Johnson, Whanganui, 1981 Datsun Station Wagon
Highest Place local entrant No 17 Allan Muir
Overall winner No 33 - Peter and Robin Hadley, Whakatane

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Rob Bennett

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Business 06 348 4444

Email: rob.bennett@harcourts.co.nz

Practical recipes for the Bouquet of the Week summer season

By Gina Guigou

Gina Guigou has been a senior tutor in Cookery/Hospitality at UCOL Whanganui for a number of years. She has offered to write a series of practical recipes using summer season products. This one is about making plum jam using plums from your own tree, your neighbour's or a friend's tree.

The summer season is well upon us, and plums have had a slow start but are now starting to ripen.

While we enjoy eating sun-ripened plums off the tree, there are always more than what we can consume, so it is a great time to make jam, sauce and stew for later in the year.

Making jam is a good way to recycle some of those glass jars everyone seems to collect. It is very important to ensure that the jars we use are suitable.

What to look for to ensure the glass jar and the lid are suitable to use:

- Jar has no chips along the rim so the lid will seal.



- Jar is spotlessly clean on the inside so that the jam doesn't become contaminated and goes off.

- Metal lids can be reused if the rubber seal inside the lid is of good quality and there are no rust marks on the lid.

- Lids need to have a tight fit to the jar. Preparing jars and

lids to be used when your jam is ready to be sterilised.

Wash your jars in hot, soapy water, and place them upside down in an oven and heat at 180 C for 10 minutes. You will need to use a dry cloth to remove the jars from the oven. Another option is to place the jars on a

towel and then fill them up with boiling water. Put lids in a pot with water covering them, then bring the water to the boil. They can be left to cool in the water, then placed on the jars of jam while still hot.

Next week, Gina will write about the process of making the jam.



Jan and Michael Penn

We received the following nomination:

"I would like to nominate my neighbours, Jan and Michael Penn, for your bouquet of the week. I live alone and my circumstances have changed in the last few months, resulting in me having to ask for help with activities of daily living and my personal affairs.

"Jan and Michael responded in a cheerful and non-judgmental way. They have been so supportive and empathetic. I can totally rely on them for advice and guidance without feeling beholden or a burden. Their willingness to help and their cheerfulness embodies the true spirit of being good neighbours. The world

needs more people like them."

The RCP was able to surprise Jan and Michael

with a beautiful bouquet put together by Nichola and her team at the Flower Room.



"Professional, cheerful, knowledgeable agent in all aspects. Rachel felt like a close friend. I would happily choose Rachel again."

Fairer Fees
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Better Service

Rachel Miller

027 526 5969

rachel.m@arizto.co.nz



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Ending 31st January

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good skin days

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- Sign up to a Caci Membership with our team of experts!
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Caci Whanganui | 85 Victoria Ave | 06 213 4333 | caci.co.nz

*T&Cs: Every purchase made at Caci in clinic or caci.co.nz during January 2024 will result in a single automatic 'Good Skin Days' prize draw entry. There are 10 prizes to be won. 1x Prize consists of a 12-month Reformaskin Basic Membership to be redeemed from Apr 1 2024 and started no later than Apr 30 2024 and completed between Apr 1 - 30 2025. Any unused treatments may be forfeited. Participants must be residing in New Zealand (as applicable) and be 18 years of age or over to enter and will be required to submit a minimum of 4 sets of progress photos and/or video accompanied by written testimonials to be eligible for advertising and marketing purposes. This is to be facilitated by Caci. Winners will be drawn at random from all valid entries during Jan 2024 on Feb 2 2024. Winners will be notified Feb 5 2024 via email applied to Caci and have until 5pm Feb 9 2024 to claim their prize. Prize may not be redeemed for cash, credit and is non-transferable.

Will you marry me? Popping the question during Whanganui Vintage Weekend



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Steve Duggan is a member of the popular 'Hot Potato' band and decided to ask an important question while the band was playing on Victoria Ave on the Saturday of Vintage Weekend.

He and Jodie Rattenbury have been going out together for some time, and he was contemplating how best to propose. He had thought of taking her up on a Gypsy Moth flight over Vintage Weekend – but it was not in town this year.

As Hot Potato were doing a gig over Vintage Weekend, he thought this could be the time. On the Friday evening he casually mentioned to her about the gig, but she said, "Just another gig. I'm happy to stay at home." When he suggested it "would be really good if she came along" and "that it would be worth my time," she admits that she had an inkling of what might happen.

It happened, and she accepted. The crowd hooted and cheered. "It was quite romantic," Jodie says, "the whole world melted away with



Jodie Rattenbury proposed to by Steve Duggan photo by Maartje Morton

just me and him."

It didn't go entirely to plan. The other members of the band continued playing their piece and didn't play 'Galway Girl' as he had planned. (Jodie is of Irish heritage). But he opened the bubbles that he had brought along in a chiller bag, and they made a toast to their forthcom-

ing wedding.

As for that wedding, perhaps on Vintage Weekend next year, surrounded by classic cars of the 60s and 70s, which will be appropriate as they love the songs of the Beatles. And Steve did propose on a pedestrian crossing – how more symbolic of the Beatles can you get?

ADVERTORIAL

Marine Services Wanganui opens shop in town



From the left - Melissa, Jamie, Kane and Blair

Jamie Newell has opened 'Marine Services – Can-am and Yamaha, Wanganui,' at 16 Wilson Street.

To celebrate, they are inviting all existing and new customers to their grand opening night on Friday, 26 January, from 4 to 8pm. There will be a BBQ supporting the Surf Lifesaving Club. It will be an opportunity to meet staff and some brand reps to learn about their fishing and outdoor products.

Jamie says, "The

support we had at 237 Rapanui Road and the expansion of the range of products we were selling meant we had outgrown the space. This new shop has much more space to display our Van-am ATV and SUV fleet and diversify into a bigger range of fishing and outdoor gear and equipment."

He adds, "Fishing is a growing sport and hobby in New Zealand, and Whanganui is seeing an increase in boats off our coastline." The Wilson

Street shop will have all types of fishing requirements covering ice and baits through to rods and reels, dive gear and tank refills, as well as game fishing gear.

As keen supporters of using New Zealand products, the shop will be stocking SWAZI clothing as well as Salty Crew clothing. They also have a range of water sport and home butchery equipment and will be looking at other opportunities to take on further brands as the

shop progresses.

Their workshops will remain at 237 Rapanui Road where the team will continue to service boats and ATVs, although bookings can also be made at Wilson Street. Between the two locations, there are 20 staff members serving the wider Whanganui region.

The shop at 16 Wilson Street will be open 9am to 5.30pm Monday to Friday and most Saturdays from 9am to 2pm.

MARINE SERVICES
FISHING & OUTDOORS
WANGANUI

**NEW RETAIL STORE
OPENING**

16 WILSON STREET -
THIS FRIDAY 26 JANUARY 2024

can-am **WANGANUI** **MARINE SERVICES WANGANUI LTD** **YAMAHA WANGANUI**

16 Wilson Street, Whanganui
Ph: 06 345 6958 | www.marineserviceswanganui.co.nz
Monday - Friday 8.30am -5.30pm | Saturday 9am-2pm

Hourigan seeks doubles berth at Paris Olympics

Forget about playing footie or cricket at Te Mana Park



The Routliffe/Hourigan combination lost in the quarter-finals in Auckland.

Turakina-born tennis player Paige Hourigan will focus on doubles for the next six months in a quest to play at the Paris Olympics. She partnered with US Open doubles champion Erin Routliffe at the ASB Classic with the hope was that it will help them get to Paris.

Routliffe's usual doubles partner, Gabby Dabrowski from Canada, didn't want to play in the first week of the year, which left Routliffe to find someone to team up with. Hourigan hadn't played since March because of an injury but had recently started training, and her focus will be on doubles to increase her chances of getting her ranking high enough to play with Routliffe at the Games.

If that happens, Routliffe will also be able to partner up with Michael Venus for the mixed doubles.

To play at the Olympics together, Routliffe and Hourigan will have to not only reach the International Olympic

Committee's requirements but also get approval from the NZ Olympic Committee. Tennis NZ will need to convince the NZOC that they have the potential to reach the last 16 in Paris.

Although 26-year-old Hourigan is a skilled doubles player and is a former finalist at the Classic, injuries have meant she hasn't played much tennis over the past three years, and a Routliffe/Hourigan partnership may not be seen as one of the favourite teams to win a medal.

However, a Routliffe/Venus combination would be one of the strongest for the mixed doubles.

Under the IOC's rules, Routliffe can't go to the Olympics just to play mixed doubles. She is looking to play a few other Women's Tennis Association tournaments with Hourigan this year to help her get her ranking up. The Olympic cut off is in June when the rankings will be evaluated.

Te Mana Park is a large park area near the end of Mitchell Street in Aramoho. However, it is not a park to take kids for a game of footie or cricket as it is very much overgrown. A local phoned us up saying that "The park hasn't been mowed since late last year and as a result the long grass is encouraging rodents, is a fire risk and a health hazard especially for asthma and hay fever sufferers."

We asked Whanganui District Council what is happening and we got the following response from Council's general manager, community, property and places, Sarah O'Hagan:

"Te Mana Park is a 'low-mow' area. A number of councils have introduced low-mow areas because leaving grass to grow longer is good for the environment as it attracts beneficial insects and reduces mowing costs.

"Te Mana Park was selected as a low mow area because it's naturally a very wet area, and it's difficult to take mowing machinery into the park in winter. The main part of Te Mana Park is mown once a year, and in summer, a pathway is mown through and around it.



Te Mana Park, Aramoho

Contractors regularly mow around the boundary of the park to keep the grass down immediately adjacent to residential areas.

"Debris from cutting firewood had been left at one of the park entrances before Christmas and the grass was unable to be mown - this has now been cleared and the entrance will be mown when contractors visit the park during the week of 22-26 January.

"A sign indicating the park is a low mow area has been removed from the park entrance and will be reinstated."

This approach is unlikely to satisfy those who live close to the park and would like to use it more often, especially in summer.

Better late than Never

VICTORIA DENTAL

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06 345 3222

Victoria House

1a Rutland Street, Wanganui

Welcome to affordable real estate service in 2024

Arizto Whanganui is pleased to welcome the very experienced Sharen Tunnell into our team for a fresh approach to real estate in 2024.

Originally established in Whanganui in 2021, Arizto was founded on the principle that local real estate would benefit from a cutting-edge technology approach - putting digital platforms in the hands of good salespeople to deliver a more user-friendly service for their clients at a better value commission fee.

And with nearly eight years in the industry, Tunnell cannot wait to bring this approach to her proven business and loyal clients.

"I can deliver the

same service for better. It's modern; it's how it should be to help everybody."

Born in Whanganui and having raised her own family here, where she loves to do a little gardening in rare spare moments, Tunnell loves the city and has watched it grow.

She knows there is a story behind every home which someone wants to sell, and someone wants to buy.

"That's why I like real estate, whether it's the buyer or the seller, and giving the best service.

"I've always enjoyed helping people in sales - the challenge it brings.

"Always have a positive attitude, if someone had a concern I just went that little bit extra.

"Keep it simple; provide that service that others

weren't providing.

"You can't quote textbook - listen to what they are wanting and try to get that result."

Her clients can access the full range of real estate work of the same high quality for less cost, including a commission rate of 2% + GST (a minimum of \$10,000 + GST applies) and marketing such as photography, video, signage, documents and internet advertising all covered.

Secure yourself in the knowledge your biggest asset is in the capable hands of Sharen Tunnell - renowned successful professional.

She is 100 percent focused on you, your family and your needs.

Sharen Tunnell



ADVERTORIAL

Sharen Tunnell

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5 Pehi Street, Whanganui East

3 Bedrooms 1 Bathroom 1 Garage

For Sale by Rochelle Burton - 027 295 8407

Open to view: 11.00am - 11.30am -
Sunday 28th January, Sunday 4th February or by appointment.
 Scan the QR code for associated documents, the HD video & 2D Floor Plan. These can also be viewed and downloaded at this link:
www.arizto.co.nz/property-search/5-pehi-street-whanganui-east

Deadline Sale



42A Treadwell Street, Springvale

2 Bedrooms 1 Bathroom 1 Garage

For Sale by Mark Voss - 027 877 3399

Open to view:
By appointment.
 Scan the QR code for associated documents, the HD video & 2D Floor Plan. These can also be viewed and downloaded at this link:
www.arizto.co.nz/property-search/42a-treadwell-street-springvale

Buyers \$485,000+



32 Kells Avenue, Aramoho

3 Bedrooms 2 Bathrooms

For Sale by Penny Little - 021 216 6784

Open to view: 1.00pm - 2.00pm -
Saturday 27th, Sunday 28th January or by appointment.
 Scan the QR code for associated documents, the HD video & 2D Floor Plan. These can also be viewed and downloaded at this link:
www.arizto.co.nz/property-search/32-kells-avenue-aramoho

Buyers \$560,000+



33 Mill Street, Marton

4 Bedrooms 2 Bathrooms 1 Garage

For Sale by John Hewitt - 020 4086 0204

Open to view:
By appointment.
 Scan the QR code for associated documents, the HD video & 2D Floor Plan. These can also be viewed and downloaded at this link:
www.arizto.co.nz/property-search/33-mill-street-marton

Asking Price \$599,000



BACK TO SCHOOL & EDUCATION 2024

What are the education options after secondary school? *Changing schools?*

There are options for more study, getting prepared for work, on-the-job training and more.

Higher level education - This includes studying for diplomas, degrees, graduate and postgraduate qualifications, and vocational study such as nursing, law, engineering or teacher education. Higher level study is usually done in universities, institutes of technology, polytechnics, wānanga and Private Training Establishments (PTEs).

Youth programmes - Youth programmes help young people make the move from school to more study or a career. Find out more about the programmes and how you can get involved Youth Guarantee website. <http://youthguarantee.education.govt.nz/>

Apprenticeships - NZ Apprenticeships and how



to apply for apprenticeships are available from - Careers NZ website - www.careers.govt.nz

Gateway Programme - The Gateway programme helps students in Years 11 - 13 progress from school to workplace learning

in a range of industries and business around NZ, while they continue to study at school.

Industry training - Industry training is learning on the job, from traditional trades like building and plumbing,

through to government and community services. It provides employees with structured training, so employees can earn while they learn. This is coordinated by Industry Training Organisations (ITOs) around NZ.



If your child is changing school or kura for any reason, you need to let the school know they are leaving and which school they will be going to and make sure they are enrolled in their new school. This includes moving to a new primary school, kura, intermediate or secondary school.

Once your child is enrolled at a new school, all their personal records will be sent from the previous one.

How do I enrol my child? What paperwork do I need to provide?

You enrol directly with the school or kura. Contact them to find out their enrolment process and to get their enrolment forms.

Documents for enrolling

Check with the school or kura to see what paperwork they want. They will want things like:

- a copy of your child's birth certificate or passport as proof of age
- a copy of their immunisation certificate (this is in the back of your Well Child book or ask your family doctor for a copy)
- medical information including your doctor's contact details
- any legal documents, for example custody or access agreements the school should know about
- if your child has been enrolled in early childhood education, their National Student Number (NSN), and ECE leaver's record
- contact details - your family phone numbers and address and someone the school or kura can call in an emergency if they can't get hold of you.

Can I enrol my child at any school I like?

Not always. If the school has an 'enrolment scheme', in other words, is zoned, this gives them the authority to restrict enrolments to families living within the zone. If you want your child to attend a zoned school and you live outside the zone you will have to apply to go into their ballot. You can read more about ballots and zones.

If you live in an area that has a choice of more than one school you can find out what some of your different options might be by reading the section on the different types of schools available.

What if a school refuses to enrol my child?

First of all, contact the school and ask whether they have an enrolment

scheme, and if so, get them to explain how you can apply to enrol.

If they don't have an enrolment scheme, they should not turn away any enrolments. If they do, ask the school to put the refusal in writing. You can then contact your nearest Ministry of Education office for advice.

- www.education.govt.nz




Churton School

The Board of Trustees & staff of Churton School extend a warm welcome to existing & new pupils for the new school year.

The school office will be open for enrolments and enquiries from **TUESDAY 30 JANUARY 2024**

School begins for all pupils **WEDNESDAY 7 FEBRUARY 2024 at 9am**

(06) 343 9406
or email office@churton.school.nz
Burmah Street, Aramoho, Wanganui



Kaitoke School
Rise up, climb high • Kake mai, piki mai


We look forward to seeing everyone back at school on **Wednesday, 31st January 2024.**

Limited places available for out of zone in 2024.

Contact the school for more information.

Office is open **Monday, 29th of January and Tuesday, 30th of January from 10.00am - 2.00pm**

Vanessa Duncan Principal
principal@kaitokeschool.com
or office@kaitokeschool.com
Concord Line, RD 2, Whanganui
Phone 06 345 0474



Rutherford Junior High
"Learn to live, live to learn"
"E ako ki te ora, e ora ki te ako"

Return to School:
February 1 - Year 8
February 2 - Year 7
Pōwhiri at 9.30am

School office hours:
New enrolments & enquiries
MONDAY 29 JANUARY
9am - 3pm

32 Toi Street, Whanganui
Ph 06 349 0022 • office@rutherford.ac.nz

WHANGANUI GIRLS' COLLEGE
Where Girls Shine

First day back is **Tuesday 30th Jan** with a Powhiri at 9am
Current students meet 8.45am in House areas
New students and family meet 8.45am in the bus bay on Jones St.

Come and see what we can offer.

ENROLLING NOW

Contact: admin@wgc.ac.nz
Phone: 06 349 0944 • www.wgc.ac.nz




Would you know what to do if someone is injured?

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Whanganui:
Thursday 15 February
N.B. Businesses are welcome to attend our Public Classes, all NZQA Accredited!

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15th BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION!



OPEN DAY
January 27

Enjoy a celebratory cupcake at our free classes on OPEN DAY!

Preschool Dance 3 to 5 years	10-10.30am
Beginners Ballet 5+ years	10.45-11.15am
Modern/Jazz Beginners 6+ years	11.30-12noon
Contemporary Beginners 9+ years	12noon-12.30pm

72 St Hill St, Whanganui
First floor (above the Brick House)
Phone Anna: 027 237 9176
Email: anna@whanganuiballet.co.nz
Web: www.whanganuiballet.co.nz

Whanganui Ballet and Dance Academy's 15th birthday celebrations

It's 15 years since WBDA opened its doors at the The Old Firestation Building in Guyton street and is now located at 72 St Hill Street above The Brick House restaurant.

Anna explains WBDA opened its doors in 2009. "Geoff Mackintosh and I collaborated together to refurbish the upstairs space at the Old Firestation building. It was a beautiful space and ideal for a ballet/dance studio.

Last year we relocated to 72 St Hill Street opposite the RWOH. It's a very elegant building, light and spacious with wrap around glazing. It is so inspiring having the Royal Opera House across the road."

Director, Anna Chandulal, has always maintained that WBDA's philosophy is to maintain the standards and traditions of ballet.

"I want to offer our local community a dance school that offers all children the chance to love and enjoy the

art of ballet, and if they wish to, the opportunity to succeed at a National and international level.

I'm very proud that I've had a graduate of the school dance professionally in the United States, two students are in full-time training institutions for ballet, and we have had several National Scholars at the New Zealand School of Dance."

WBDA also offers training in Modern Theatre dance, a syllabus that was developed for Musical Theatre students, and the New Zealand syllabus for Contemporary dance (NZAMD).

"I recognise that ballet isn't for every child, so Modern Theatre dance and Contemporary offer a great alternative for the once-a-week child and a great training 'extra' for the enthusiastic ballet student!"

Anna invites the community to attend WBDA's Open Day on Saturday 27th. "Come and enjoy our beautiful



Whanganui Ball and Dance Academy studio at 72 St Hill Street studio, ask questions and about the classes we offer and enjoy a birthday cupcake with teacher Annabel McMahon and myself."

How many credits does my child need to earn at each NCEA level?

At every level of NCEA your child needs to achieve a total of 80 credits to have gained that NCEA level qualification as follows:

NCEA Level 1
80 credits at Level 1 or higher, including: 10 credits in numeracy standards; 10 credits in literacy standards; Assessment can be in English or te reo Māori.

Talk to your child's teachers if you're

unsure about which standards give credits that meet the numeracy and literacy requirements for NCEA.

NCEA Level 2
Total of 80 credits made up of: 60 credits at Level 2 or higher, 20 credits at any other level.

NCEA Level 3
Total of 80 credits made up of: 60 credits at Level 3 or higher; 20 credits at Level 2 or higher.

Congratulations on your NCEA results





BACK TO SCHOOL & EDUCATION 2024

How can I help my child get ready for school?

Here are some ideas to help your child become familiar with the school or kura:

- visit the school or kura with your child
- get the principal and teacher to meet your child
- arrange some settling-in visits with their teacher before their first day
- have a play at the school in the weekend - run around, climb on the playground equipment, kick a ball on the field.

Talk to the teacher about your child

When teachers know children well they are better able to support their learning. Let the teacher know...

- if your child has any special health needs and what to do
- what your child likes to do, what they are good at and what makes them happy



• after-school plans and who picks up your child when you can't

• anything that might affect how your child is feeling.

Help them get ready to learn

They may find it easier to participate in the class if they:

- can sit on a chair at a table for a short time to complete an activity
- are comfortable being away from you
- know how to take turns and wait for things

- know the names of colours
- know the letters of the alphabet
- know the numbers 1 to 9
- can hold a pencil correctly and use scissors
- can write their name
- are able to hold a picture book and turn the pages carefully.

- www.education.govt.nz

What does your child learn in Secondary School?

You will find that what (and how) your child learns at secondary school is quite different to when you were at school. Nowadays the focus is on developing a range of skills and abilities that they need to continue their education, get into the career they want and be successful in life, rather than just teaching facts and figures.

State and state-integrated schools and kura use the National Curriculum as a framework to develop teaching programmes that are relevant to their students. Primary schools and kura begin delivering the National Curriculum and secondary schools continue it at the higher levels.

What will my child learn in years 9 and 10?

These are the first two years of secondary school.

In these years your child will learn English, maths, science, health and physical education, social sciences and can choose from a range of options across the arts and technology. Optional subjects may also include languages, economics and textiles.

Schools and kura can vary in the optional subjects they offer so ask your child's teacher or dean or check the school or kura website for more information on the options they offer.

What will my child learn in years 11, 12 and 13?

In the senior years your child will specialise in subjects that fit with their interests and abilities and their tertiary education and career plans. During this time there's a greater choice of subjects but the teaching is still guided by the National Curriculum. The subjects your child takes in these years will be assessed in relation to NCEA.

In year 11 most schools will require your child to study the core subjects of English, maths and science, although there may be a variety of classes they can take in these subjects. As well as these core subjects your child will take 3 other subjects. English and maths credits are required for NCEA Level 1.

In most schools in year 12 English is a compulsory subject and in year 13 there are usually no compulsory subjects. Your child can choose what they study from the subject areas offered by the school or kura or if a subject they're interested in learning is not offered, they can talk to the school about doing the subject through Te Kura (The Correspondence School) or through a neighbouring school.

The New Zealand Qualifications Authority (NZQA) can help with information on the subjects available at secondary school and are your

first stop for information about NCEA. Find out all about NCEA from the NZQA website, (www.nzqa.govt.nz/audience-pages/parents/) there is also a NZQA NCEA Guide mobile app you can download.

Careers NZ can also help you and your child to make decisions about subject choices and provide guidance about NCEA, career planning and ongoing study. Check out the Careers NZ website (www.careers.govt.nz) for information and tools to help, or call them toll free on 0800 222 733.

Go to the Youth Guarantee website, (www.youthguarantee.net.nz/vocational-pathways/) see how your child's skills and interests relate to industry and work with them to begin planning a pathway from NCEA Level 2 into a vocation or career.

www.education.govt.nz



CULLINANE COLLEGE

Thursday 25th and Friday 26th January
Teachers Only Days

Monday 29th January
9.15am: Powhiri
Year 13, Year 9 & new Year 10 - 12 students
Please assemble in the College driveway
Year 10 - 12 students leave after morning tea
Year 13 Peer Support
Year 9 Orientation

2.50pm: Students assemble with parents in the
Performing Arts Centre

3pm - 3.30pm: Parents meet SOUL teachers followed
by a BBQ

Tuesday 30th January
Full school line up outside Gymnasium for an assembly.
Normal Timetable from Period Two

For more information
please contact the
College office on
(06) 349 0105



38-46 Keith Street, Whanganui

The Keith Street School Board & Staff
welcome all new enrolments for 2024.

School starts 9am,
Tuesday 30 January 2024

For all students including the first cohort of
new entrants who turned 5 years old before
30 January 2024. The second cohort of new
entrants will start on Monday 4 March and
include learners who turned 5 before this date.

A Whakatau for new students and whanau will
be held on Wednesday 31 January at 9.30am.

Make your enrolment enquiries at
keithst.school.nz/enrolment or contact the
school office between 10am-2pm from
Tuesday 23 January 2024 on 0800 349 1111

Manaakitanga Be Respectful Akonga Be a Learner Hamarutanga Be Responsible



Whanganui High School
welcomes students and staff
back to school for 2024

Prefect Leadership Day 23 January 2024
Teacher Only Day 26 January 2024

Pōwhiri for new students and staff will be held on
Monday, 29 January 2024 at 8.45 am in the Hall

Year 9 & Year 13 students begin 29 January 2024
Years 10, 11 & 12 begin 30 January 2024

Martin McAllen
Principal
Whanganui High School

ENROL NOW SPACES FILLING FAST!

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- Carpentry Level 3
- Agriculture Level 3 - Dairy



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Do more in 2024

U3A Whanganui 2024 series - 'exploring the human brain'

U3A stands for University of the Third Age and while the idea of doing something series to keep your mind alive as you progress beyond a 'certain age,' is important, U3A has a wide range of activities that are just simply enjoyable.

These include Crime Fiction to Classical Music, from Science and Technology, Travel to Dancing, Walking to Philosophy, Café Culture to Bon Appetit, Cinema to Theatre.

The groups are led by a member and are frequently in a person's home. U3A is a local, not-for-profit organisation that is non-sectar-

ian and non-political. It has been described as "being young again, but without the hassle of school, or a job."

Max Warburton is President, and he is keen to also offer programmes with an intellectual challenge. Starting on Wednesday 7 February and for the next four months on the first Wednesday, participants will listen and discuss afterwards topics related to 'Exploring the Human Brain.'

All speakers on the programmes are well qualified in their specialist areas. Some programmes have multiple presenters. Their talks are screened.

The programme is as follows:

February 7: Genes, Cognition and the Human Brain Revolution

March 6: Making (and breaking) memories: a decade on insights into brain health.

April 3: A deeper understanding of the functioning of the human brain.

May 1: Where in our brain do our memories exist and how are they stories.

June 5: Being You: A New Science of Consciousness

All sessions are held at the Josephite Retreat Centre, 14 Hillside Terrace, St Johns Hill. The presentations

would generally take about 40 minutes followed by discussions, which can last through to 12 midday – but participants are free to go when they need to.

A previous series of presentations were held late last year on Social Media and misinformation which is an important topic with so many individuals, groups and countries seeking to undermine accepted beliefs and common understandings.

I attended a programme intended as a lead into the series on the Human Brain. The topic was 'How our brains make our emotions.' It was interest-

ing, informative and challenging. A participant made a comment which summed up my views as well – "Fascinating but I need to watch it again."

It is easy to become a member and join the over 100 who are already members. It is only \$15 and can be done online.

Any queries give Max a call 342 1859.

Christopher Walsh: Professor of Paediatrics and Neurology at Harvard Medical School whose presentation will be on 7 February.



For information on joining please contact **Trixie Turner** 344 4001 or write to: **Secretary, U3A Whanganui** 3 Ingestre St

Join U3A for Interest and Fellowship

Annual Membership is just \$15.00

We meet for day-time educational activities in small groups. Join as many as you wish - meet new people and make friends. There are no entry level requirements.

Contact **Trixie Turner** on 344 4001

or email: tatbat747@gmail.com for an information pack including subscription form and a list of groups you can join.

<http://www.u3awhanganui.co.nz/>

Are you ready to put your skills to good use?



Cancer Society staff love and appreciate working with volunteers

 **We need Volunteers!**
are you ready to put your skills to good use?

We need people to fill the following positions:

Relay For Life Fundraising event

Catering Coordinator Volunteer

Tech Savy Volunteers

Games and Sports Volunteers

Soup Tent Volunteers

Client Drivers

Commitment: 3hours minimum per drive. Drive as little or often as you want.

Full training Provided

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Receptionist

Thursday 8.30-12.00pm shift available

On-call/ back up shifts available

Need to be computer literate

Be part of something fulfilling!

If you are interested in any of these roles please contact Jane on (06) 348 7402 or email enquiries.wgi@cancercd.org.nz



People volunteer for different reasons, but they all bring skills, passion, and energy to their roles.

Our Cancer Society volunteers come from all walks of life, but they are all committed to reducing the impact and incidence of cancer.

We would not be able to support, inform and empower those affected by cancer without our volunteers!

You can positively impact your community, be part of a team, share your experience, learn new skills, and develop lasting friendships. We currently have positions open for Client Driving, Reception and Events.

Client Driving requires you to have a tidy vehicle, a full driver's license, and excellent people skills. The time commitment is a minimum of three hours per drive – usually to Palmerston North Hospital, but it can also be local or to Wellington. In this role, you will pick up clients from their homes, take them to their appointment, and then return them home. In this fulfilling role you will be reimbursed per km you drive. You choose how little or often you want to drive, and we accommodate your preferences.

In reception, we are looking for volunteers who have great people and phone skills, are computer literate and are looking to be part of a fun and vibrant team. There is currently a shift available on Thursdays from 8.30am-12.00pm, and we are also looking for people who are happy to just back up when needed.

In events, we are looking for fun, energetic people to help with multiple activities happening throughout our Relay For Life event which is being held on March 23 and 24.

Full training and ongoing support are provided for these roles. If you would like to hear more about any of these roles, please contact Jane on 348 7402 or email enquiries.wgi@cancercd.org.nz. We would love to hear from you!

Do more in 2024

NZ's oldest festival of sports, music and dance at Turakina this Saturday

Volunteers needed for Whanganui NZ House and Garden Tours

The Turakina Highland Games returns this Saturday, 27 January, at the Turakina Domain. First held in 1864, it is New Zealand's oldest festival of sports, music and dance. Apart from when Covid prevented it from running one year, the Games have run for 159 years, including last year when they got through some torrential rain.

Debbie and Durry Benton have been with the organising team for over ten years, with Durry being the chief of the Turakina Caledonian Society.

Debbie says, "We have a record number of Highland dancers this year with 137 entries from all over the country." The Games are regarded as one of the most significant Highland events in New Zealand. Of those 137, 110 have entered into the Royal Scottish Official Board of Highland Dancing competitions while the other 27 are competing in the New Zealand Piping and Dancing competitions.

Entries into the solo piping competitions is likewise huge, with 70 competitors including those at the highest level. Then of course there are



the Highland drummers.

In the afternoon it will be the chance for pipe bands to show off. One band to focus on will be the Manawatu Scottish Band who competed in the World Championships in Edinburgh, Scotland, last year achieving a 9th place position, the highest of any band outside of Scotland.

In between times there

will be the traditional field events such as the shot put, tossing the caber, and if that is too heavy for you, what about tossing the hay bale with a pitch fork. There is also another event involving running with heavy rocks.

What next? In the children's section, it will be a return to some good old fashioned races, such as paddy (potato not egg) and spoon, the needle in a haystack for prizes (no hay fever sufferers should enter), the three legged and the sack races.

If by lunchtime you are thinking, 'I should give ...a go', you can, as younger band members will show you how. This could be the first day of your future in pipe bands.

What about a photo wearing a kilt to bring out the inner Scot in all of us? There will be a range of kilts, although regrettably not the best of all - the 'Davidson' kilt.

There will also be a Clan march past at lunch time so if you have a Scottish surname, be prepared to

join in.

What would be a festival without food - and there will be plenty including haggis to try (much better than a sausage).

Near the end there will be a haggis ceremony with whisky (sorry - only for the formal participants), followed by the prize giving and then a BBQ dinner, which will cost you only \$15 (12 and under \$7).

All Highland Games have to end with a free cèilidh or party, and Turakina will have the band 'Bowmore' (coincidentally the name of a recommended Scotch single malt whisky) playing. Debbie advises "There will be traditional dances with the more 'mature' participants able to show the young ones what to do," as well as some 'more recent dance forms.'

The gate fee is \$10 for adults with children under 15 free. Parking is free all day with the option of camping at only \$5 per night, plus gate fee.



Locals are being sought to volunteer in some of the region's most stunning homes, while making a difference for breast cancer.

Breast Cancer Foundation NZ needs more volunteers to help at the NZ House & Garden Tours taking place in Whanganui on Friday 15 and Saturday 16 March.

The annual tours here some of the beautifully created homes and gardens people love to read about in NZ House & Garden magazine. As the charity partner of the event, Breast Cancer Foundation NZ has received more than \$1.5 million raised from the tours since the partnership began in 2014.

"We're very grateful for the generosity of NZ House & Garden, the wonderful people who open up their incredible

homes or give up their time to volunteer, and the many Kiwis who attend the tours," says Ah-Leen Rayner, chief executive of Breast Cancer Foundation NZ.

"The money raised from the tours helps to fund our life-saving work in research, education and patient support. This is a highlight of our calendar, giving Kiwis the chance to have a lovely day out while also helping us to reach our ambitious goal of zero deaths from breast cancer," Rayner adds.

Volunteers are required for morning or afternoon shifts to help make sure the houses are looked after and the tour-goers are kept safe. In return, they'll be gifted an exclusive goodie bag and discounted tour ticket.

To sign up or find out more, visit www.breastcancerfoundation.org.nz

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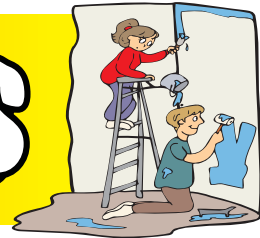
Pipe Bands, Highland Dancing, solo piping and drumming, Scottish Field Events, Children's Games, Tug of War, Clans, Stalls, Food & Refreshments,

Free evening ceilidh with live music.

www.turakinahighlandgames.co.nz



SUMMER RENOVATIONS



Staying cool at home this summer

There are many simple, effective and low-cost ways to reduce the temperature of your home – without using electricity.

Here are some simple tips to take the heat out of your home when designing, building or renovating.

Insulate well - Insulation regulates the transfer of heat into and out of a home. It helps to keep your home warm in winter by reducing the amount of heat that escapes, and it also helps to keep your home cooler in summer. Ceiling insulation is especially effective – it reduces the amount of radiant heat absorbed into your home by roofing iron and tiles

and buffers the ceiling cavity, which is often extremely hot, from the rooms below. Wall insulation is important too (you can also use heat-absorbing materials like concrete or bricks for north- and west-facing walls).

Allow for good airflow - The simplest way to cool a home is to open doors and windows, allowing air to circulate. This is particularly effective if cool air from shaded areas around the home can be drawn inside. Installing window-stays means you can leave windows partially open at night, or when you are out, without compromising security. Even better, if you are

replacing or installing windows, consider frames with built-in air vents.

It is especially useful to open high-level windows on hot days – this enables the rising warm air to escape. If renovating or building a new home, be sure to include openable, high-level windows in the design.

Provide adequate shading - Wide eaves keep the sun out of your home in summer but let in the low winter sun. Alternatively, removable awnings or shade sails can be erected in summer and taken down in winter. Pergolas around north- and west-facing doors and windows, planted with

deciduous vines, are a great idea, too. The abundant leaves in summer provide welcome shade, but when the leaves fall, winter sunlight will enter.

Skylights are a wonderful way to introduce natural light and warmth into darker areas of a home, but during summer months they can act as heaters, raising



Wide eaves and pergolas can help keep your home cool in summer

indoor temperatures to unbearable levels. Install blinds or screens on skylights and draw these in the hottest parts of the day.

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Decks and paving areas for outdoor living

Paved areas play a special role in summer garden spaces. They are particularly useful in areas of high traffic. For instance, the threshold between house and garden needs a hard-wearing surface to cope with the intensity of traffic. Paving also carries the eyes from the house out to the garden. It is a half-way space.

By itself paving can be hot and glaring during the middle of summer. Small courtyards often depend on water in some form to counter this harshness and make the space more livable. Another method is to use pergolas draped with climbing plants to create a shaded space. Deciduous climbers, in particular, make paving areas useful sun traps during winter when we crave the sun's warmth, and

create pools of shade during summer.

Paving stores the sun's heat during the day and radiates it back at night, making a paved area very pleasant for entertaining.

Decks are also useful summer places. These also deal with high traffic areas, and can provide a level living area on sloping ground. They are most commonly attached to a house as a transition space to the rest of the garden. However, they can also be used as a free standing summer space remote from the house, particularly to make use of an area of sloping ground.

Use pine (radiata or macrocarpa) or New Zealand-grown eucalypt for decking. These timbers provide a range of appearances and are environmentally friendly.



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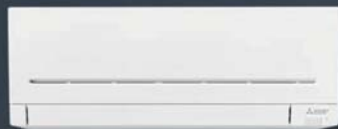


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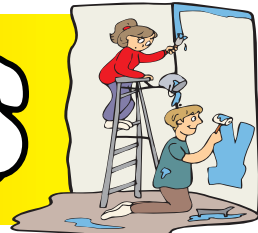
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SUMMER RENOVATIONS



Painting tips

David Beatson offers the full range of tree service

When painting above your head with a brush, paint tends to drop down the brush onto your hand. To avoid this, put a small hole in an ice-cream container lid and place the handle of the brush through the hole. You won't get any paint on your hands as it will go onto the lid. Once you have finished the job you can clean and reuse the lid. *From: Nicola Patterson.*

We have a "New Denim Blue" coloured iron fence around our barbecue area. I could only purchase green coloured hanging baskets to hang on the iron fence, so I purchased some New Denim Blue paint from the local Resene ColorShop and painted the hanging baskets to match the fence. They look awesome and it was very, very easy with a small brush. In fact, when I took them back to the garden shop to get plants for the baskets, the shop suggested I could paint some for sale in the shops as so many people ask for different coloured hanging baskets. *From: Diane Chandler.*

If repainting a previously painted surface, use a common kitchen scourer to both clean and roughen the surface. In many situations it will save you needing to sand before painting, and quite a bit of elbow grease. *From: Perry Shilton.*

Store paint tins upside down (check the lid is on tightly!) to prevent a skin forming on the paint surface. *From: Stephanie Lee.*

Always cover everything in the room you are working in. Never think when sanding that because the Tv and video are on the other side of the room that you don't need to cover them, as the dust will find its way to them and may ruin them. *From: Adele Rohriach.*

Good tip - never marry a DIY husband. *From: Krissie Hornell.*

David Beatson of Elevate Tree Services offers a full range of tree services including tree felling, pruning, removal, log slabbing, chipping along with digger services, especially useful for removing hedges and small tree stumps.

Brought up on a farm in Whanganui East, David developed a combination of skills and work experiences, including warehouse and operations management, which made a shift to tree services four years ago, an easy and comfortable change.

He ran Elevate Tree Services in Whangarei until May last year, when he returned to Whanganui to be closer to family.

He has all the equipment needed, including a chipper, a two-ton digger and a tip truck. If a customer does not want the chips, he offers it free of charge to someone else who needs it for their

garden. David can also call upon staff to assist him when needed.

David is an outdoor person who is into mountain biking and trail

building. He uses his digger to help develop the mountain bike tracks in Hylton Park, creating a learning jump for younger riders. He says,

"I enjoy being outside and in nature as well as meeting both physical and mental challenges. I love my work and doing a good job."



David Beatson, Elevate Tree Services



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Steps to selling your home

• Choose your agent
Take note of real estate companies signage, advertising style and general visibility. Also talk to family and friends and ask for recommendations. Remember all real estate agents are members of the Real Estate Institute of New Zealand and as such must abide by its Code of Ethics.

• Establish house price
Your selected agents can use market analysis and comparative sales techniques to guide you on realistically pricing your home. Realistic pricing helps sell quickly.

• Choose a marketing plan
Your chosen agent can then guide you on the most effective forms of sale, which include auctions, exclusive and sole agencies. REINZ research shows newspapers and window displays play an important part in the marketing process, as can the internet.

• Allocate funds for marketing
For optimum results sellers should allocate about two percent of the value of the property to marketing. Agents can then provide you with expert advice on effective



advertising and marketing.

• Have documentation to assist listing agent
As the seller, you should have such information as a recent rates notice and title information.

• Complete minor repairs
Minor repairs should be carried out before the property is listed for sale.

• Secure a building inspection report
Having a building inspection report from a reputable person assures the buyer that the property has been inspected and that any major faults have been noted.

• Access to property
Once the property is listed for sale, the agent must have access to the

property without having to find the owner and then wait for keys. Lack of access could create a missed sale opportunity.

• Be prepared for an inspection at any time
Once the agent has access to your property, they may take potential buyers to your property at any time during work hours after telephoning you first. Keeping the house tidy means your property looks its best all the time.

• Maintain presentation of property
Presentation is not just about keeping the inside of the property tidy, but also about keeping the lawns mown, shrubs tidy and hoses put away. A tidy property is a saleable property.

Succulent Styling donating to Women's Refuge with every full home staging

Trudy Reeves has been running Succulent Styling in Whanganui for two years after moving here from the Kāpiti Coast. Looking forward to 2024, she hopes to complete 100 home staging installs, and for every full home staging – that is for a vacant or new home – she will gift a 'Safe Night' cost to Women's Refuge, in recognition of their 50th anniversary.

While most of her work is in Whanganui, Trudy continues to work in Kāpiti and Levin as well. She says, "I would like to say that they find me good and easy to work with. I know the area well so that is an advantage."

"There has been a return of investors to the real estate market since the end of November last year, especially buying small two-bedroom units and renting them out. This is where home staging can really make an impact, as many units can be dated, making them look tired. It pays to dress them up."

Trudy is able to use furniture and other items she has bought and stores



Trudy (on the right) with Bridget Davidson, her assistant.

in a warehouse. She also has a part-time staging assistant who has a background in furniture restoration.

She believes that 2024 will show a return of personality to homes, using character and colour to make them stand out. "It is a move away from

neutral minimalism to a more maximalist approach."

So, Trudy predicts more warm browns and rust, red-pinks and deep dark blues being used. This is even happening in new houses with owners opting for feature walls, fluting and handmade

tiles.

At the end of February, Trudy and her assistant will be going to the Australian Home Staging Conference in Brisbane. She says it is important to continue to invest in training and ideas and to network with other home stagers.

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Jumbo crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Court official (7)
- 4 Replace with (10)
- 9 Feel contempt for (7)
- 13 Delight (4)
- 14 Film theatre (6)
- 15 Wayward (6)
- 16 Inmate (7)
- 19 Overabundance (7)
- 20 Period of tranquillity preceding a crisis or uproar (4,6,3,5)
- 21 Cunning (6)
- 22 Quick look (6)
- 24 Athletics field event (4,5)
- 29 Music writer (8)
- 30 Stocking band (6)
- 31 Enterprise (7)
- 35 Flying (8)
- 36 Affectionate (6)
- 37 Colourful gemstone (4)
- 38 Touch in passing (5)
- 39 Rodent (3)
- 41 Soft leather (5)
- 43 Bicycle seat (6)
- 47 Has a break (5)
- 50 Chore (3)
- 54 Ran for office (5)
- 55 Young deer (4)
- 56 Possibility, probability (6)
- 57 Pay out (8)
- 60 Description under an illustration (7)
- 61 Second-in-command (6)
- 62 Baldness (8)
- 65 Pirate (9)
- 67 Lampoon (6)

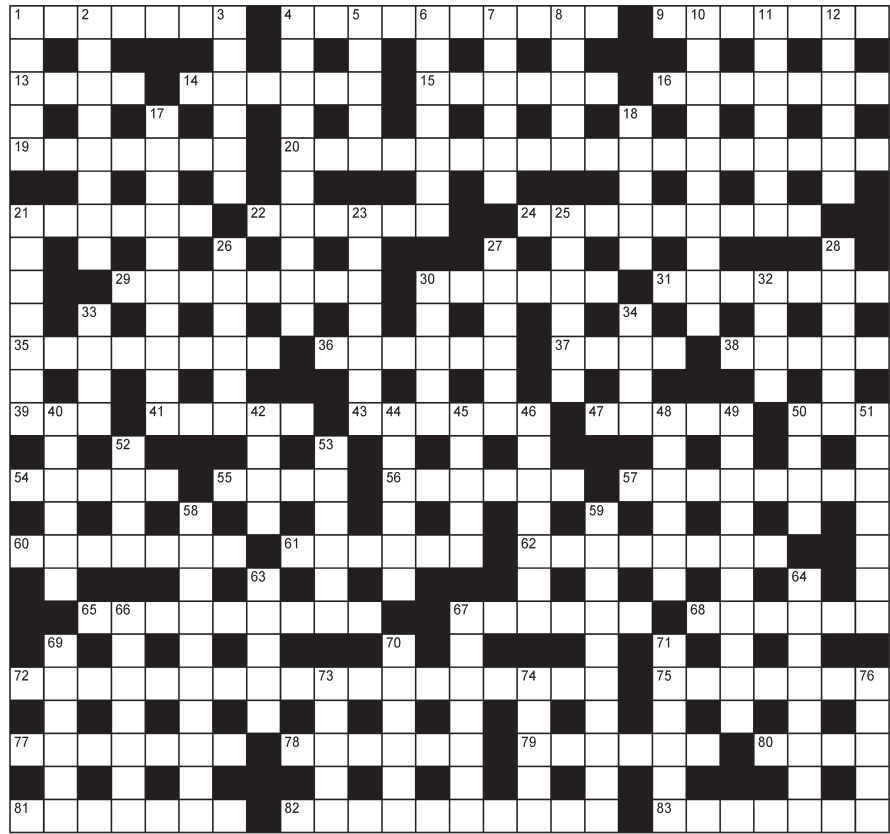
68 Fill with consternation (6)

- 72 An unexpected event or occurrence; a surprise (1,4-2,3,3,5)
- 75 Lay bare through digging (7)
- 77 Spanish wine-juice drink (7)
- 78 Practicable, feasible (6)
- 79 Copper alloy (6)
- 80 Excess of supply (4)
- 81 Hinged window cover (7)
- 82 Left in ruins (10)
- 83 Gravestone inscription (7)

DOWN

- 1 Fake (5)
- 2 Cold food (3,5)
- 3 Insubstantial (6)
- 4 Lost for words (10)
- 5 Free-for-all (5)
- 6 Quiver (7)
- 7 Tax on imports, exports (6)
- 8 Singing voice (5)
- 10 Freed from any question of guilt (10)
- 11 Of crucial importance (7)
- 12 Free from danger, risk (6)
- 17 Overgreedy, piggish (10)
- 18 Direct (5)
- 21 Man-horse creature (7)
- 23 Edgy (7)

- 25 Wild feline (6)
- 26 Light cake (6)
- 27 Thrifty (6)
- 28 Painting done in wet plaster (6)
- 30 Mill (5)
- 32 Make weary (4)
- 33 Horse gait (4)
- 34 Lose colour (4)
- 40 Of the stars (6)
- 42 Distribute cards (4)
- 44 Grow by addition (4)
- 45 Log (5)
- 46 Bewitch (7)
- 48 Small harpsichord (6)
- 49 Cuts up further (10)
- 50 Courtroom twelve (4)
- 51 Beer plant (7)
- 52 Chimney deposit (4)
- 53 Explosive exhalation (6)
- 58 Final and deciding (10)
- 59 Exchange letters (10)
- 63 Smell (5)
- 64 Carried shelter (8)
- 66 Vertical (7)
- 67 Topic (7)
- 69 Join on (6)
- 70 Abnormal intense irrational fear of something (6)
- 71 Enigma (6)
- 73 Bring up (5)
- 74 Circular flight path (5)
- 76 Drawback (5)



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SIMON SHUKER'S CODE-CRACKER Extra 793

EACH number in our Code-Cracker grid represents a different letter of the alphabet. For example, today 24 represents P, so fill in P every time the figure 24 appears. You have one letter in the control grid to start you off. Enter it in the appropriate squares in the main grid and solve the starter word. Fill in other squares in the main and control grids with the found letters and look for the next word. Follow the word trail through the puzzle to its completion. Visit www.codecracker.co.nz

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

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

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

MEDIUM

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

Previous solution

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

Previous solution

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

Previous crossword solution

ACROSS: 1 Pay through the nose, 10 Holidays, 15 Assume, 16 Irritating, 17 Etcetera, 19 Western, 21 Beret, 22 Chihuahua, 25 Alleviate, 27 Evident, 29 Bleach, 33 Dogma, 34 Supplier, 36 Accentuate, 39 Toe, 41 Usually, 42 Muesli, 43 Rarity, 44 Long, 45 Bivouac, 48 Monotonous, 53 Embrace, 57 Spry, 58 Reflex, 59 Arbour, 60 Foolish, 62 Tip, 64 Cradle song, 65 Endanger, 66 Fated, 69 Climax, 70 Cheated, 71 Barometer, 76 Capillary, 77 Rhyme, 78 Portray, 83 Crockery, 84 Occurrence, 85 Parade, 86 Traitors, 87 Swear black and blue.
 DOWN: 2 Answer, 3 Trust, 4 Rue, 5 Unit, 6 Harvest, 7 Hatter, 8 Note, 9 Sunshine, 11 Outlaw, 12 Inequality, 13 Area, 14 Spanish, 18 Rhinoceros, 20 Reef, 23 Minus, 24 Paranoia, 26 Lumbago, 28 Vertigo, 30 Bonsai, 31 Fiasco, 32 Pestle, 35 Pluto, 37 Eagle, 38 Ulna, 40 Ergo, 45 Basic, 46 Verbatim, 47 Crease, 48 Melancholy, 49 Next, 50 Trapeze, 51 Nobody, 52 U-turn, 54 Moot, 55 Release, 56 Cashew, 61 Flea market, 63 Venom, 67 Dairy cow, 68 Veto, 69 Crew cut, 72 Ammonia, 73 Mirror, 74 Cherub, 75 Landau, 79 Throb, 80 Nova, 81 Puma, 82 Peak, 85 Pen.

5x5

S	A		M	
E		L		
A	I		U	
	A	E		
S	E		T	

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





Heart Awareness Month

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Lower your risk of heart disease

It's about to be heart disease awareness month here in NZ. Heart disease continues to be a major killer and causes an estimated 220 deaths a day.

Heart disease is a condition where blood vessels become blocked or narrowed, essentially preventing the heart and other major organs from receiving the blood they require to function correctly. Overtime the damaged or compromised blood vessels can lead to a heart attack or stroke.

The symptoms of heart disease include chest pain, pain or numbness in the legs or arms and/or shortness of breath. Many of these symptoms also indicate the onset of a heart attack. Terrify-

ing to say the least. The earlier heart disease is detected the more feasible it is that future heart attacks or strokes can be avoided by treatment and medication, as well as by managing lifestyle choices.

There are plenty of things we can all do, to lower our risk.

1. **Eating a healthy, balanced diet.** Our diet can be a major factor in the health of our heart. One of the main things to watch out for is foods that are high in saturated fat, as too much of this will increase the levels of bad cholesterol in your blood. Foods high in saturated fat include meat pies, butter, cakes, and biscuits.

2. **Keep yourself at a healthy weight.** Excess

weight can lead to fatty materials building up in your arteries.

3. **Make sure you do regular exercise.** The heart is a muscle like any other, and benefits from exercise. A strong, healthy heart can move blood around the body with less effort.

4. **Quit smoking.** This is because smoking is a major contributor to atherosclerosis, which is a thickening or hardening of the arteries.

5. **Get your heart checked.** You can get it done by your local GP. The Heart Foundation also provides a free, on-line heart health assessment to give an indication of your heart health, which can be found here: <https://myheartcheck.org.nz/>



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Charlie Meredith - a football odyssey at Whanganui Athletic and the journey ahead

In the annals of Whanganui Athletic Football Club, few tales resonate as profoundly as that of Charlie Meredith, a prodigious talent whose journey from the grassroots to the First Team has captured the hearts of fans. As he bids farewell to Whanganui Athletic and embarks on a new chapter with Western Suburbs to further his football career, let's recount the remarkable milestones that define his legacy at the club. Charlie Meredith's odyssey with Whanganui Athletic commenced in 2017 at the age of 11, when he joined the club's youth ranks. A swift rise through the WIS Academy, U15 Lions and U17 Lions showcased his innate talent, setting the stage for what would become an illustrious career at Athletic.

Meredith's meteoric ascent reached its pinnacle with his First Team debut at the age of 16, a memorable 5-0 triumph over Gisborne Thistle on April 9th, 2022. In the subsequent seasons, he amassed a total of 36 First Team caps, becoming a linchpin in the squad. His notable feat includes playing every minute of all 18 league games in 2023 except for the final 18 minutes against Waterside Karori, underlining his indispensability on the pitch.

Charlie Meredith's contributions extended beyond the pitch, with his goal-scoring prowess adding a touch of brilliance to his portfolio. Notable among his feats are the two goals against Woodleigh in the Chatham Cup 2022 Prelims, a crucial strike against then Central League side Have-lock North Wanderers in the Chatham Cup Round 1, and a historic double-header against NW that secured Athletic's first Central League win in the 21st century.

Meredith's impact was not limited to the senior team; his excellence in youth development earned him the Club Youth Player of the Year award in both 2022 and 2023. This accolade not only reflects his individual brilliance but also underscores his influence on the club's future talents. As Charlie Meredith bids farewell to Whanganui Athletic, his departure is marked by gratitude for the memories created and the indelible legacy left behind. The move to Western Suburbs signifies a new adventure, promising growth and challenges that will undoubtedly shape the next phase of his football journey.

Charlie Meredith's story at Whanganui Athletic is one of talent, dedication, and triumph. From a young enthusiast in the youth ranks to a seasoned player leaving an indelible mark on the First Team, Meredith's journey is a testament to the nurturing environment at Whanganui Athletic. As he looks towards the horizon with Western Suburbs, football enthusiasts eagerly await the unfolding of the next chapter in the remarkable saga of Charlie Meredith's football odyssey.



Charlie Meredith in action. He has just signed a contract to Wellington based Western Suburbs

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Softball reps shining at National and Regional competitions



Whanganui Softball age group rep teams have been making an impact on the diamond and turning heads with performances over the last two weeks.

Competing in National and Regional Tournaments, Whanganui Softball sent a U17 Girls and U17 Boys team to the national competitions 11 - 14th Jan, held in Auckland and Christchurch respectively and had the U15 girls and boys teams attend the ISA regional tournament last weekend, to Akina Park in Hastings.

The U17 girls team achieved a respectable 6th place, giving the larger associations a run for their money. The young team was the one to watch as people started to pay attention to the young ladies from Whanganui. Overall, team results were impressive, and individual accolades were also achieved. Poppy Priddle was named top batter of the tournament and named in the Softball NZ tournament team alongside their coach Fiona Campbell and manager Merekanara Ponga.

The U17 boys team were competitive, coming 11th out of the 16 teams. The development of these players was evident having been at the national tournament in 2023, challenging the bigger centres and winning well against regional teams.

Girls Results:
Day 1: Win against Wellington 21 - 13. Win against Otago 10 - 0
Day 2: Loss to Hutt Valley 1 - 17. Loss to Counties 6-8. Win against Southland 8-5
Day 3: Loss to Auckland 5-11. Loss to Canterbury 4-5. Loss to North Harbour 4-7
Day 4: Loss to North Harbour 4-5.

Boys results: Day 1: Loss to Canterbury 1-11. Win against Nelson 9-2
Day 2: Loss to North Harbour 3-7. Win against Otago 11 - 0
Day 3: Win against Waikato 12-0. Loss to Franklin 2-12. Loss to Canterbury Development 2-12.
Day 4: Win against Nelson 16 - 4.

ISA Regional tournament
Whanganui's U15 softball teams travelled to the ISA Regional tournament in Hawkes Bay, during Wellington Anniversary weekend. Both teams performed well and were disappointed when the final day was cancelled due to the rain, especially the girls who were to face Counties in the semi-final with a chance to get to the final. The boys, whilst only having one win against North Harbour Development, were competitive with only a few runs separating them from their opponents.

Whanganui players were also being watched by selectors at the tournament with several named in the tournament team. Poppy Priddle, Ngārongokaumoana Ponga and Taylah Waitokia were named in the girls team and Te Huatahi Bradley was selected for the boys tournament team. Pitcher, Waitokia was also named girls MVP for the tournament.

Girls Results: Day 1: Loss 1-4 to Hutt Valley. Win against North Harbour 5-4. Win against Franklin 17-0.
Day 2: Win against Hawkes Bay 17-2. Loss to Counties Manukau 1-2. Win against Auckland 3-1.

Boys Results: Day 1: Loss to Franklin 1-12. Loss to Auckland 5-9. Win against North Harbour Dev 11-0.
Day 2: Loss to Hutt Valley 1-7. Loss to Hawkes Bay 4-6.

Beware of fishing licence website

Fish & Game New Zealand is urging anglers to beware of an overseas-based website offering its services to help purchase a fishing licence.

The Fish Assistant website, which is not authorised by Fish & Game NZ, offers anglers fishing licences at a significantly higher cost to the user than purchasing a licence through the Fish & Game website.

Anglers have reported being significantly overcharged or not receiving the licence they have paid for, which poses a real risk for anglers when they get approached by our compliance team in the field as they may be fishing illegally.

Fish Assistant has also altered fishing licences, (an offence under the Freshwater Fishing Regulations) to remove the purchase price in an effort to prevent anglers from knowing the actual costs of purchasing them from Fish & Game.

Fish & Game believes approximately 150 fishing licences have been purchased through the Fish Assistant website.

"There is only one authorised place to purchase your fishing licence online, and that's the Fish & Game NZ website," says Corina Jordan, chief executive of Fish & Game.

"We're concerned those people looking to buy a licence will pay a premium through the Fish Assistant website when they can easily buy one online for a reasonable price through Fish & Game. People can also purchase a licence in-store at one of our partner retail outlets.

"We're disappointed this website is pulling the wool over people's eyes by suggesting it is difficult to purchase a fishing licence in New Zealand when it is, in fact, very simple and quick. Fish & Game also has teams around the country who are happy to provide free advice and information."

We are also very concerned that Angler's credit card details have been compromised, as the website is not processing these payments through an accredited payment system.

Fish & Game has been liaising with the Department of Conservation, which is also affected by this website and recommends anyone who has used the fish assistant website to contact the NZ Police and their bank.





WHAT'S ON IN THE COMMUNITY

Alcoholics Anonymous

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

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.

Jigsaw Exchange

First meeting for 2024 held on Saturday 27th January between 10am and 11.30am at Central Baptist Church in Wicksteed Street. Free exchange, no limits. Contact Jack @ 343-1404 or 021-0277-5391 or email rega21@xtra.co.nz

Psychic Adventures

These will be in a controlled environment which will give you a wider understanding of our existence. The use of a pendulum to see if food/medicines/etc are acceptable for your body and well-being. Psychometry – investigating the energies of items: jewellery/ornaments/photos. We all have natural intuitive insights: White Flame Oasis will be a regular small group. Need more

information? Ring me: Sandra Singleton 06-345-3803. Local Wanganui.

Wanganui Country Music Club Inc.

welcome you to join us on Sunday 28th January at Pipe Band Hall, 1E Bell St. Afternoon concert from 1pm to 4.30pm. We meet the 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month right through to 8th December. Great band, raffles, and afternoon tea. We look forward to meeting you. Contact Terri or Dave 021-061-7282 for further information.

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.

What's On in the Community Notices

What's On in the Community notices are \$10 for up to 50 words. Contact River City Press, by Tuesday 1pm to place your advertisement.

PERSONAL

FREE confidential health checks, STI and HIV screening. Whanganui Hospital. Phone for consultation 348-1775/021-323-077.

I am seeking to make contact with anyone who has been vaccine injured by the Covid Vaccine. Phone Graham (06) 343-1606.

SITUATIONS VACANT

GET paid to exercise! Pamphlet Distribution require reliable runners to deliver RCP and brochures each week. Phone Bubs on 343-2010 or 027-218-2010.

Meet the Green MPs at Pākaitore/ Moutoa Gardens this Thursday evening



The Green Party MPs prior to the resignation of Golriz Ghahraman. Marama 4th from the left, Tamantha 6th from the left at the back, Teanau is on the far right, Darleen, 6th from the left, Kahurangi is 1st left at the back.

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GARDEN seat. Park bench style with metal ends. Any condition. Ph. (06) 343-7280 or 027-591-4410.

At least five Green Party MPs including co-leader Marama Davidson will be at Pākaitore/ Moutoa Gardens, corner of Market Street and Taupō Quay to meet and talk with locals this Thursday, January 25. If it rains, the venue will be the Quaker Meeting Rooms at 256 Wicksteed

Street. The list of confirmed MPs to be there is Marama Davidson, Tamatha Paul, Teanau Tuiono, Darleen Tana and Kahurangi Carter.

Plumber Dan Soapbox Derby - a great success



Ministocks on Wall of Death - Photo courtesy of KiwiTV



Wall of Death crash winner - Photos courtesy of KiwiTV

While it is hard to estimate the numbers who attended the Plumber Dan Soapbox Derby races over Vintage Weekend, estimates are between one and two thousand at peak times.

There was plenty of action, especially at 'The Wall of Death' helped by mini-stock members who were competing to win the prize for this part of the event. That was won by Leighton Johnson.

There were around 50 entrants, with the winner of the "King of the Hill" ti-

tle going to Kirk Vosper from Tauranga. He had phoned through late in the week to find out more before attending a wedding in Auckland and then coming down to Whanganui.

Son Max, aged 11, used the same cart to race in the Sprinter Class, 11 to 15, and claimed the title of Junior King of the Hill. The Vospers were not only very pleased to win but were very complimentary about the competition, saying, "It was the best organised soapbox derby they had attended."

OBITUARY - Francis Hill

A former Whanganui representative rugby fullback, Francis Hill, has died.

Mr Hill, described by Whanganui rugby historian JB Phillips as very talented, played for Whanganui in the 1970s.

Francis William Hill had 18 games for Whanganui, five in 1975, nine in 1976 and four in 1977.

A farmer at Waitōtara, known to his rugby mates as Fanny, Mr Hill played for the Waverley club (now Border).

He played golf at Waverley in his later years. Mr Hill, who died last week, has been buried at Pākarakā (formerly Maxwell).

Recent Bereavements



Sadly passed away recently...

Albert James (Alby) COE, on 21 January 2024, aged 46 years.

Paul Anthony John HATTON Reg No. 342039 Malayan Erection.

Huia Mere Arihi JP Q.S.M. REWETI-HENERE,

on 21 January 2024, aged 89 years.

Francis William (FANNY) HILL, on 16 January 2024, aged 72 years.

Peter John (Pete) JACKMAN, on 18 January 2024, aged 84 years.

Peter Edward McGONIGLE, on 16 January 2024.

Valda Evelyn MOODY, on 20 January 2024, aged 92 years.

Clive Duncan RENDELL, on 20 January 2024, aged 76 years.

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The Caboodle 2024 - it's a wrap!



Despite the heat and the threat of rain, thousands of locals and visitors, young and old, poured into town last Saturday for one of Whanganui's iconic events: The Caboodle. The event, part of Whanganui's Vintage Weekend, got the crowd buzzing. Seeing grandparents swaying to swing tunes with their grandkids, families giggling, and friends dancing under the stars – that's the magic of The Caboodle.

showcase our musician's talent at Caboodle with locals and visitors from far and wide." Beyond the festive atmosphere, there's the economic impact of the event. Caboodle injects a significant boost into our local economy, supporting local businesses and showcasing the talent and creativity of our city. The sheer number of people enjoying our Mainstreet, its shops, cafes, and restaurants is a testament to the event's success.

Geoff Follett, part of the team at Mainstreet, had this to say about the event. "It was a superb day, with a momentary glitch when the heavens opened. The crowd was amazing; they didn't let the rain dampen their good spirits, and that continued through to the last song of the event, performed by The Repliants in Block One. Geoff continues, "Whanganui has no shortage of great bands and talented musicians; all the bands that perform on the day are local, and I'm proud of every one of them. It's great to

Pat Clay, Deputy Chair of the Mainstreet Board and local business owner, understands how much work goes into planning The Caboodle and its impact, saying, "I am proud to say that the hard work of the Mainstreet team resulted in a great event. The vibe of town was great with a lot of both locals and visitors enjoying the fun of Caboodle. "It was a great way to start the year and it was pleasing to see that not even the occasional downpour could dampen the spirits of those who came out. We look forward to being part of an even better event next year."

On behalf of Mainstreet Whanganui, we're thrilled to declare Caboodle 2024 a phenomenal triumph! The streets pulsated with the heartbeats of classic cars, laughter, and the vibrant energy of our community. The Caboodle was more than an event; it was a celebration that stitched together the fabric of our city's spirit, weaving joy, nostalgia, and camaraderie into the very essence of Whanganui's vibrant population.

Whanganui Bridge Club results

Bridge Results Week ending 21 January:
Monday Whanganui Pairs: N/S: 1. I Kelly, J Delaney 58.33 2. R Bowie, B Annear 54.86 3. C Harding, R Story 53.82 4. M & G Keely 49.65 E/W: 1. H Elgar, J Glenn 58.73 2. M Hicks, I Newbold 58.33 3. A Hodges, J Kay 52.38 3=G Pickett, L Patrick 52.38
Tuesday Rutland Pairs: N/S: 1. B Franklin-Browne, S Watson 61.57 2. S Walkinton, T Watson 53.94 3. K & P Verhoek 52.98 4. J Wagstaff, L Vodanovich 51.85 E/W: 1. R & D Nightingale 64.35 2. P Paterson, G MacLachlan 64.35 3. S Pedley, S Fonseca 59.95 4. N Kennedy, S Benefield 59.26
Wednesday Kowhai Pairs: N/S: 1. S Pedley, W Hodges 65.08 2. J Gillespie, M Dawson 56.35 3. C Winton, T Gunasekara 43.12 E/W: 1. L Raine, W Pedley 58.99 2. L Lilly, B Charteris 52.50 3. C Sullivan, D Thompson 49.21
Wednesday Social: N/S: 1. N Gale, C Pepperell 58.33 2. S Cvitanovich, J Dodds 52.78 E/W: 1. A Thirtle, R Story 56.94 2. N Kennedy, S Benefield 56.25
Friday Social: N/S: 1. A Hodges, C Pepperell 60.23 2. S Benefield, J Dodds 55.87 3. A Hancock, L Vodanovich 55.11 4. N Gale, D Price 53.03 5. J Scott, I Back 52.08 6. M Johnson, J Wagstaff 49.62 E/W: 1. G Hodge, S Baron 61.01 2. S Poff, C Raisin 60.84 3. I Newbold, J Glenn 55.94 4. S Pedley, C Cvitanovich 55.07 5. D Haynes, W Pedley 52.27 6. B Collins, J Hore 52.27

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Whangaehu School OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR 15 hours per week

Our wonderful office administrator is retiring and embarking on a new adventure, so a position at our beautiful rural school has become available. The position is for 15 hours a week during term time.

We are looking for someone who is a people person, who loves working with children and has a kind and friendly manner. Strong computer skills are essential and experience with Google Drive/Office 365 would be an advantage. Administration responsibilities would include general administration duties, payroll and some financial administration.

We welcome applications via email addressed to Nicki Keyes: principal@whangaehu.school.nz with a covering letter and a brief Curriculum Vitae. Please include 3 referees with their contact details.

Applications close Sunday 4 February 2024.

For further information please contact Nicki Keyes on 027 741 9016.



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Kaiarahi Whakaaro / Community Ministries Programme Facilitator

About the Business:
 The Salvation Army is a worldwide evangelical Christian Church and human service provider. Our message is based on the Bible. Our ministry is motivated by love for God. Our mission is to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ and meet human need in His name without discrimination. We aim to care for people and transform lives through God in Christ by the Holy Spirit's power. We work for the reform of society by alleviating poverty, deprivation and disadvantage, and by challenging evil, injustice and oppression, in the name of Jesus.

About the Role:
 The purpose of this position is to facilitate programmes that assist people towards improved wellbeing including gaining knowledge and skills, reaching their goals and living transformed lives.

What will your responsibilities be:

- Facilitate and promote programmes.
- Support participants to meet their needs, rights and responsibilities.

Our ideal candidate will:

- Excellent written and oral communication skills.
- Good cross-cultural understanding.
- An understanding of the physical, emotional and psychological challenges participants may be experiencing.
- Engages people in a compassionate way, establishing rapport quickly so that people feel they are in control and can take steps to improve the quality of their life.
- Ability to work cooperatively in a team environment, sharing information, ideas and effective practices while maintaining client and service privacy and confidentiality.

Candidates must be legally entitled to work in New Zealand.

Our offer to you:

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Candidates should be adaptable, energetic, self-motivated and committed to our mission of 'caring for people, transforming lives and reforming society'

This Whanganui based role is permanent part time and hours worked will be 10 hours per week.

The starting salary for this role will fall **between \$51,655 and \$55,482 (pro-rata)**
 The starting hourly rate for this role will fall **between \$26.49 and \$28.45.**

Applications to be made online
<https://careers.salvationarmy.org.nz/jobdetails/ajid/bhQj7>



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CLASSIFIEDS

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



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



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SATURDAY 27th JANUARY Public gates open at 4.30pm

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SATURDAY 27th JANUARY 2024
 PRE MEET EVENTS: 4PM / MAIN PROGRAMME: 6:45PM

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PUBLIC NOTICES

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Netball Whanganui Annual General Meeting

The 2024 Netball Whanganui Annual General Meeting is being held at 6:00pm on February 26, 2024, at 98 Peat Street Whanganui in the Laird Park Netball Courts Pavilion.

Nominations of elections and items of business must be submitted to the Office of Netball Whanganui no later than 5:00pm February 16.

You can find the full AGM rules within the Netball Whanganui Constitution here:
www.netballwhanganui.co.nz



SECTION 101 SALE AND SUPPLY OF ALCOHOL ACT 2012

August Trading Limited, has made an application to the District Licensing Committee at Whanganui for the Renewal of an Off Licence in respect of the premises situated at 138 Somme Parade, Whanganui and known as Aramoho Four Square.

The general nature of the business to be conducted under the licence is a grocery store.

The days on which the alcohol is to be sold under the licence are Monday to Sunday, 7.00am to 8.00pm.

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

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

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

This is the second publication of this notice.

The first notice was published on January 18, 2024.



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If you have any questions or concerns, contact me:
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SPECIALISED SERVICES

True Build Construction - building, especially renovation specialists

Adam Shepherd came to Whanganui about six years ago after having run his own building company in Invercargill. In 2017 he started True Build Construction in Whanganui with one employee, and today employs five staff, including two apprentices, who came to him after excelling in their pre-

apprenticeship carpentry course at City College.

True Build Construction does almost everything in the housing market, from new builds to renovations, extensions, decks, repairs, maintenance, sheds and kitsets and is also a bathroom and kitchen specialist. "We will do something as small as changing a

hinge," adds Adam.

The business is a licenced building practitioner and a Member of Certified Builders, and combined, their staff have over 40 years of building experience.

They also use a wide range of local subbies and suppliers.

Adam says, "We particularly enjoy doing renovations of villas and bungalows. They suit our skill set." They are

currently doing one in Gonville, gutting, then rebuilding, as well as putting on a deck. Other recent jobs include renovating the building in Koromiko Road, which is now an early child-

hood centre as well as a post-fire restoration of a house on King's Ave.

Administration is carried out by Adam's wife Kirsty, who owns and runs Etcetera Bridal in the old National Bank building, employing four staff.

True Build has received some very positive responses, such as the one below from a Mr and

Mrs Dean: "We built our first home with Truebuild and are extremely happy. The team took a great deal of pride in delivering a quality job on time. The building job ran very smoothly due to good communication and attention to detail. We wouldn't hesitate in recommending True-build to anyone."



From left: Josh, Brooke, Hamish, Brody, Tawai, Kirsty and Adam

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SPECIALISED SERVICES

Driving Miss Daisy local franchise up for sale

After more than six years successfully building up the business and establishing a reputation for quality service, Clive Aim is putting his Driving Miss Daisy franchise up for sale.

The business includes the three vehicles which have become regular features of Whanganui's

highways and byways, two of them accommodating wheelchairs via a ramp system.

Clive's service is mainly associated with older, less mobile folk, but he points out that passengers can also include schoolchildren and ACC clients of all ages.

"It's a rewarding activ-

ity and very enjoyable – every day we have people saying what a wonderful service it is," says Clive. "It's a great business for someone who likes working with the community."

Driving Miss Daisy is known for going the extra mile, helping passengers with things like shopping

and other errands.

And it accepts the Total Mobility Subsidy cards which give passengers a \$15 subsidy from Horizons regional council. These are available from Age Concern and Somerville Disability Support Services.

The business has gone

from strength to strength.

"I started from scratch with one car. Now we have three cars, I'm one of four drivers and we are busy as beavers – and turnover has gone up and up."

Driving Miss Daisy was started by Melanie and Jack Harper in Havelock

North 14 years ago and there are now 75 franchises across New Zealand.

Clive says the head office is very supportive, and he is of the same mind.

"Whoever buys the business, I will help get them up to speed and will be there to help them out when they take over."

Weekend and evening trips mean it is a seven-

day-a-week operation and Clive is looking to wind down a little and tackle something less full-on.

Anyone wanting to find out more about this opportunity should go to the Driving Miss Daisy website in the first instance where there is information on the franchise model, requirements and processes.

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Clive Aim with Necole in front of the third vehicle

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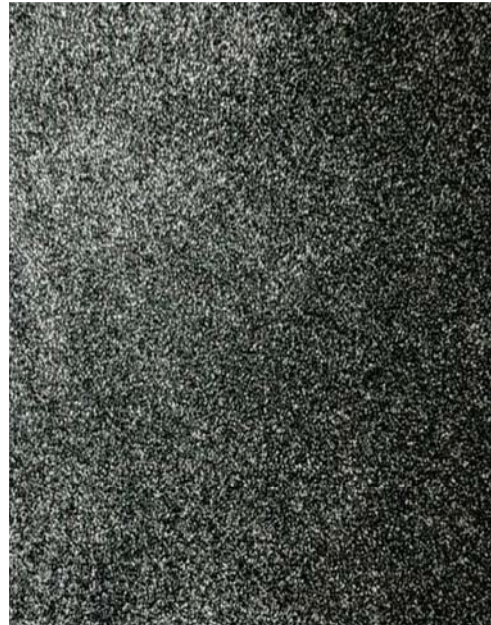
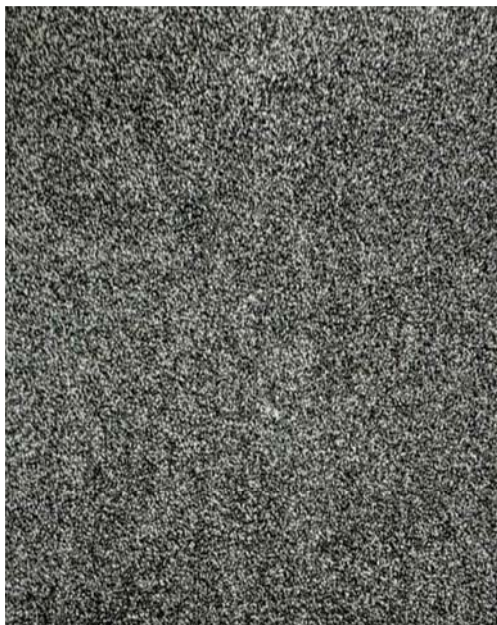
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