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Swapping NZ life to retire in Botswana

BY DOUG DAVIDSON

Gillian and Graeme Bremner were close to retirement but instead of settling down in Dunedin, where they were living, they decided to start a new life in the Southern African country of Botswana.

Gillian was brought up in Whanganui, trained as a nurse at the Whanganui Hospital and had worked there as a charge nurse and then night supervisor and then principal nurse in New Plymouth, before going with husband Graeme to Dunedin to become the Chief Executive of Presbyterian Support Otago. Graeme had a Ph.D. in forensic science working in the public service as well as in academic studies in Otago University. He had attended forensic science conferences around the world, so it was not a surprise when in 2016, he was offered a job to set up the Bachelor degree course in Forensic Science at the University of Palapye in Botswana. Gillian explains that,

“We had previously been to Botswana for a holiday and loved the country. It is a politically stable country and is a safe place to be.” In fact, she points out that according to world safety reviews, it ranks 11th ahead of Spain, Australia, Canada – and New Zealand.

Readers may have watched the 2016 movie ‘A United Kingdom’ about how the heir to the throne of Bechuanaland (now called Botswana), Seretse Khama, wants to marry an Englishwoman despite the protests of both their families and opposition from the British government. They did marry in 1948 and Seretse Khama was elected as the first president of Botswana, and their son became the country's fourth elected president in 2008.

Palapye has only 45,000 people and Gillian explains, “A university was built there as the campus in the capital city of Gab-

orone had got too large, and the city itself was running out of water.” The population of Botswana is only 2.4 million.

Initially Graeme flew in and flew out until Gillian retired in 2018. They packed the contents of the house into a container, added their Land Rover and shipped it all to Botswana. By then, Graeme's contract was coming to an end, but instead of renewing it, the two of them decided to stay on in Botswana in a different capacity.

To gain residency, they needed to set up a business which they did in partnership with two locals. It was a 14 hectare venture called Segagai Farm (Gillian advises you don't pronounce the 'g') It includes a guest house, campsite, recreational facilities and, typical of that part of Africa, a braai or two (BBQs).

“A big attraction,” Gillian says, “is the noctur-



Gillian and Cheryl when Gillian was back in Whanganui recently.

nal wildlife, which can include everything from a porcupine to an antelope, to a genet (a slender cat-like animal), a mongoose to a pet python. The ma-

ajority are harmless.” Their son has joined them, and in February 2022, they opened up a Self-Drive business. It is for tourists, mainly from

European countries such as Italy, France, Germany and a few from New Zealand.

Continued on page 2

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Check out what's in this week's RCP

You might have seen the banner message – 'Adventure before Dementia.' That might have been in the back of the minds of Gillian and Graeme Bremner, who are now operating a couple of businesses in the Southern African country of Botswana. (see our front page article) It is a far cry from her early life in Whanganui and her pre-retirement position in Dunedin.

We have a political story worth checking out. Deputy Mayor Helen Craig provides some background to the proposed \$35m spend on the Opera House (page 3).

If you are thinking about volunteering for a good cause there are openings for drivers and assistants on the St John Health Shuttle



Doug Davidson
journalist@
rivercitypress.co.nz

(page 8) or you can join the 'Friends of Westmere Lake (page 8).

Another volunteer is optometrist Lillian Lei, who will be heading off to Tanzania in May to help carry out eye checks (page 6).

Future Champions awarded funding grants

Five outstanding young Whanganui athletes were awarded with grants to support them in their international sporting endeavours at a presentation with trustees and sponsors yesterday.

The first Mitre 10 MEGA Whanganui Future Champions Trust funding round for 2024 has granted \$5250 to five talented young athletes from the Whanganui region.

The Mitre 10 MEGA Whanganui Future Champions Trust aims to give young people a "hand up" to reach their full potential in their chosen sport.

Four of the recipient athletes and their supporters attended a presentation at Mitre 10 MEGA Whanganui on Thursday, where trust members and sponsors acknowledged their individual achievements and wished them the best for their future sporting endeavours.

Recipients announced for this funding round were:
Messina Su'a – Selected as part of the Rowing NZ Under 21 team to compete in the Pacific Regatta in Penrith, Australia from 31 May – 2 June 2024.

Finnegan Murphy – Accepted to race for elite French cycling club Mor-



Whanganui Future Champions recipients, trustees and sponsors

laix Cyclisme Performance (MCP), based in Brittany, France.

Mollie King – Selected to represent NZ at the International Weightlifting Federation World Youth Championships in Lima, Peru, from 22-26 May 2024. Mollie has also qualified for the Commonwealth Youth Games in Suva, Fiji in September.
Poppy Priddle – Selected for the New Zealand Junior White Sox Softball Team to compete at the WBSC Under-18 Group Stage World Cup Qualifier in Sao Paulo, Brazil in July 2024.

Juliet McKinlay – Named in the Athletics NZ team to compete in the 2024 Oceania Athletics Championships in Suva, Fiji from 1-8 June 2024. Juliet will compete in the 100m hurdles, long jump, and heptathlon in the Under 18 Women's division.

Trust representative Philippa Baker-Hogan said "We are so impressed and proud of these new recipients and know how much work goes on behind the scenes to gain selection at this level.

"A very recent NZ Junior Hockey recipient, Rebecca Baker, has just been selected into the NZ Women's Black Sticks to play a two-test series against Japan, along with another recipient, Emma Rainey. We are proud of the 'hand

up' we have given them to reach elite selection in their sport."

Naming sponsor Hayden Gibson of Mitre 10 MEGA Whanganui said "It is a privilege for our team and us to be able to partner with the Future Champions Trust and support young athletes onto the national and world stage, these young people are the future of Whanganui, and they deserve as much support as we can give."

"It makes me proud to be part of such a successful small community where we punch well above our weight on the world stage. I look forward to watching these young athletes as they represent in their respective sports."

The Mitre 10 MEGA Whanganui Future Champions Trust has been operating for over a decade and has granted more than \$92,000 to 69 individual athletes.

The funding rounds are held three times annually in February, June, and October. Athletes interested in applying for funding support are encouraged to visit the Trust's website to assess the criteria for the fund, and to download an application form. The next funding round closes on 30 June 2024.

The Trust is thankful for the generous support from

Mitre 10 Mega Whanganui, Arthur Wheeler Leedstown Trust, Shane Stone Builders and the many local businesses and individual donors who have provided support

over the years. All levels of support are appreciated and interested businesses are also encouraged to contact the trust via www.futurechampionstrust.org.

Swapping NZ life to retire in Botswana

Continued from page 1

They provide in-depth guide notes and as petrol is only \$2 a litre, it is a relatively inexpensive way to see the country.

"The countryside, while not dramatic, is picturesque," Gillian says. It is particularly good for wildlife viewing with the Chobe National Park, home to the largest concentration of elephants in Africa.

"We originally thought to stay for five years," explains Gillian but Covid intervened, and they have no timetable to return to New Zealand. As Gillian says, "We have fallen in love with Botswana. The people are exceedingly friendly, the cost of living, apart from imported goods is cheap – a fillet steak is only \$10 a kg."

However, Gillian points out that "Many local people do live hand to mouth, get their running water from an outside tap, endure frequent power cuts and have to cook outside."

Gillian's sister Cheryl Edwards, who retired from being the manager of Family Works Whanganui, is off to visit. The cheapest and quickest route is via Perth, Johannesburg (South Africa) to Gaborone.

The temperatures are hot. In summer, it gets into the high 30 degrees, albeit with no humidity as it is far away from the sea. Winter is still very warm at 26 to 28, with the prospects of an overnight frost. A 'snow-bird' future of living there in winter and back to New Zealand for summer, has its attractions for Gillian and Graeme.

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Proposed extensive upgrades to Royal Whanganui Opera House



In 2023, a Safety Report found parts of the 1899, heritage listed Category 1 Opera House to be unsafe. Despite renovation of many parts of the building in 2016, including earthquake strengthening, parts of the backstage area are no longer considered safe for continuing use. Following the Safety Report, the fly-floor and hemp ropes were dismantled immediately, and temporary scaffolding put in place to enable shows to continue, such as Phantom of the Opera and Opera Week 2024.

the Opera House largely as-is and build a new sometime in the future that will deliver on full compliance with the building code, comfort and versatility for national shows? It will still take at least five years to grow bed capacity via a hotel, so until then, large touring shows will find it difficult to find accommodation for cast and visitors alike.

Council's Chief Executive commissioned a specialist Theatre report from experienced theatre architects Shand Shelton, which was presented to a Councillors workshop late in 2023. Various options were proposed for upgrades and cost estimates. These options have now been presented for public consultation within the Long Term Plan (LTP) 2024 to 2034.

The very cheapest option uses scaffolding to support limited backstaging operations, but this limits the use of the stage area and costs circa \$150K. The most expensive option sees an entire rear stagehouse built and fly system for \$17M, and a full upgrade to all other areas of the Opera House would bring the total to circa \$35 million. Support funding from Lotteries etc would be sought to subsidise the cost to the ratepayer. All these are estimates only and detailed design and costings need to be completed, which could change the totals considerably.

Deputy Mayor Helen Craig says, "Councillors need to hear directly from the public, especially those who use the stage area. At \$17M cost, even with Grants from Lotteries etc, the additional debt will add to higher rates for years. The following questions need to be answered," says Helen.

• With only about 17,000 ratepayers and under 50,000 population is this a good investment vs the increased rates burden?

• Will the extra usability of the stage and view shaft bring in enough large national shows to warrant the cost?

• This is a special unique heritage building, with inherent limitations to its useability, comfort and compliance to current building code. Will demolition and build of an entire rear section compromise its heritage importance and still leave half new and the other half with its inherent limitations?

• Ultimately, with Palmerston North only an hour's drive away, do we need to spend a large amount on our own venue, or is this a nice to have now?

• Is the current arrangement sufficient to provide a reasonable venue for our own domestic events and smaller touring shows?

A public meeting will be held on Friday, 19th April, War Memorial Hall, 4pm, to present the options to the public and answer questions. Theatre expert Phil Conroy of Architects Shand Shelton will present details, and Deputy Mayor Helen Craig will field questions, with support from Councillors. The goal is to seek submissions from the public on which option they prefer and why so a final decision can be made by Councillors for budget inclusion in the LTP.

Full details of the LTP is on council's website www.whanganui.govt.nz go to: Long Term Plan 2024-2034. Libraries should have copies in printed form. The website has much more comprehensive and detailed information due to the huge amount of material available on each topic, including the Opera House plans.

Public Engagement meetings regarding the Long Term Plan

The average rate rise is expected to be in the region of 10.6%, but many households will face an average of 12.5% rate rise. The Council is considering a wide range of service cuts and conversely additional funding for certain projects over the next 10 years of the LTP2. Submissions can be made up to 2 May.

There are several Council-run public engagement sessions over the month of April, and Deputy Mayor Helen Craig has arranged some specific meetings and welcomes the public to attend. This is an opportunity to ask in-depth questions on specific issues before completing their own submissions. If time allows, other issues in the LTP can be discussed.

• Saturday 13th April:

Mayor Andrew and Deputy Helen will have a stall at the Saturday Market to discuss any issues one-to-one.

• Tuesday 16th April, Repertory Theatre, 5.30-6.30pm: regarding the future of the Repertory Theatre building, which the Council wishes to sell, or if that fails, to demolish.

• Friday 19th April, War Memorial Centre, 4pm: regarding proposed \$35M upgrade to the Opera House. Theatre expert Phil Conroy of Architects Shand Shelton will present details.

• Tuesday 23rd April, Davis Theatre, Whanganui Museum, 5.30-6.30: regarding heritage and town centre funding in general, library cuts to funding and opening hours and Museum funding.

• Wednesday 24th April,

Repertory Theatre, 5.30-6.30pm: regarding all Arts and Performing Arts sector funding.

Helen can be contacted anytime on helen.craig@whanganui.govt.nz or 021 1030737.

1. Ratepayers can check on their own property rates via Council's website www.whanganui.govt.nz, go to "Property Rating Search", put in their own address and the previous rates and proposed new rates will appear.

2. Full details of the Long Term Plan (LTP) is on council's website, www.whanganui.govt.nz go to: Long Term Plan 2024-2034. Libraries should have copies in printed form. The website has much more comprehensive and detailed information due to the huge amount of material available on each topic.

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Bird photography - rare beauties on our local patch

- nature talk April 16 -



Nankeen Night Heron. Photo Credit: Paul Gibson, copyrighted, reproduced with permission.

Paul Gibson, author of several books on New Zealand birds and one of Whanganui's best-known bird photographers, will be the speaker at this month's Nature Talks, to be given on Tuesday, 16 April, in the Davis Lecture Theatre, Whanganui Regional Museum, starting at 7:30 PM. His richly illustrated talk, Bird Photography—Rare Beauties on our Local Patch, will focus on some of the special birds that he has photographed locally in the past 15 months.

Those who have heard Paul talk previously or have seen his books will know the superb photographs he takes, the products of a keen eye for birds and their interesting behaviours. As he says, it is surprising what is out there if we take the time to look in likely places and just how beautiful many of these birds are when seen close-up.

The Whanganui region not only has its own special birds, such as the Nankeen Night Heron, which in New Zealand breeds only along the Whanganui River but is visited by birds from as far away as the Arctic circle, at one end of

the world, to those from sub-Antarctic, at the other, with many in between. Paul has photographed and written about most of them.

Come and share Paul's enthusiasm for birds and learn more about them. Entry is free, although a gold coin donation is always welcome from those who can afford it to help offset expenses. Nature Talks is a series of bi-monthly talks organised by three local environmental groups—Birds New Zealand (Whanganui Region), the Whanganui branch of Forest & Bird, and the Whanganui Botanical Group, all in conjunction with the Whanganui Regional Museum — on topics related to New Zealand's environment, natural history and their conservation. The talks are normally held on the third Tuesday of every alternate month. For more information, contact Peter Frost (birds.whanganui@gmail.com, phone 343-1648).

One of the subjects of Paul Gibson's upcoming Nature Talks is about an adult and a first-year Nankeen Night Heron at Ūpokongaro, only the second site where nests have been found in New Zealand.

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WANGANUI SECONDARY SCHOOL NEWS

Growing up on Campus: the unique experience of boarding school families

Living on the grounds of a boarding school isn't just a job for some; it's a way of life. For families who call Whanganui Collegiate School (WCS) home, their role extends far beyond their professional duties. As integral members of the school community, onsite staff offer invaluable support and care to students while raising their own children in a unique educational environment.



On-site families at Collegiate School

care and wellbeing of nearly 300 boarders and 150 day students.

The life-long friendships developed at WCS are inclusive of everyone. Housemaster Selwyn Hodges says living on the drive doesn't just mean a short commute to work. "The biggest benefit of living on site is involving my family in what I am doing at work. The relationships we build

with other families here also means the support is fantastic, and we enjoy living in a close-knit community environment."

Currently, 28 staff live with their immediate family at WCS, and the youngest of the 24 children living on-site is just eight weeks old. The integration of families into the boarding environment is a hallmark of the Collegiate experience. The children have a great extended family in the boarding house; they join house activities, help prepare for events and have just enjoyed an Easter egg hunt in the Headmaster's garden alongside international students over the Easter break.

Family living at WCS is a unique and rewarding experience, and children

have grown up on the campus for generations. The hustle and bustle of seven-day boarding means families have a sprawling playground on their doorstep, where they can explore the outdoors, play sports, and interact with students from all over New Zealand and the world. The vast network of the Collegiate community is extremely unique; you can just about go anywhere and meet someone with a connection to the School. Living on campus is more than a job; it's a lifestyle filled with tradition, life-long friendships, and community spirit. Each member of the WCS extended family plays a vital role in shaping the unwavering special character of the School.

Whanganui Collegiate School 2024 Tour Day

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Community News

Sponsor a spot - Waimarie appeal to support educational opportunities for students



The Waimarie Operating Trust is launching an appeal to local businesses and community members to support its initiative to provide educational opportunities for students who would otherwise be unable to experience the magic of the Waimarie on Te Awa Tupua – Whanganui River.

Recognising the power of experiential learning, the Waimarie Operating Trust is committed to ensuring that students have the chance to embark on a voyage of discovery aboard the Waimarie. However, financial constraints often hinder accessibility for many schools and students.

The significance of the Paddle Steamer Waimarie is more than mere nostalgia, and can serve as a floating classroom, enriching the educational landscape for students of all ages.

Castlecliff School mentioned they may have to fundraise so their students could take a trip as an add-on to their learnings about the Nankeen Night Herons on a recent trip to Upokongaro, which has inspired a campaign to help youth to experience the Waimarie.

In response to this challenge, the Waimarie Operating Trust has launched a campaign called "Sponsor a Spot", where supporters can purchase a spot for a student for \$25 and is reaching out to the business community and local stakeholders to

help facilitate school trips for students who wouldn't normally have this opportunity.

"We believe that every student deserves the chance to experience the Waimarie, and explore our heritage," said Stuart Hylton, chair of the Waimarie Operating Trust.

In previous years the Waimarie Operating Trust has been successful in securing external funding to undertake educational trips. However, as the needs grow within the wider non-profit community, securing funds for community outreach programmes has become increasingly difficult.

By rallying support from businesses, philanthropic organisations, and community members, the Waimarie Operating Trust aims to ensure that cost is not a prohibitive factor in providing students with enriching educational experiences. Sponsorship opportunities are available to businesses looking to make a tangible impact on the lives of local students while showcasing their commitment to education and community development.

"We invite businesses and community members to join us in this meaningful endeavour," adds Manager Waimarie Operating Trust Jen Britton

For more information and to support the Waimarie Operating Trust's 'Sponsor a Spot' initiative, please visit www.waimarie.co.nz or contact Jen Britton, manager@waimarie.co.nz.

Theosophy free public presentation

On Sunday 2pm, April 14, Carole Van Weede will give a free presentation in the Awa Room at the river entrance to the Community Arts Centre, 19 Taupo Quay. The talk will be for about an hour, and Carole will be discussing the following:

The Mystery of Ley Lines and Energy Lines. Explains the difference between these; sacred geometry of the earth; pilgrimages and UFO sightings; dowsing; famous lines; megalith additions and the effect of the sun on earth; Birke-land currents and vortexes and how to find them.

What is 'Theosophy'? – a worldwide association dedicated to exploration and practical realisation of the oneness of all life and independent spiritual search with no imposed dogma. Our purpose is to share and apply learnings, to 'do no harm', to support personal explo-

ration, creating opportunities to develop and practice open, respectful and diverse communica-

tion - no soap boxes are available.

We look forward to seeing you there :)

Wisdom teeth playing up?

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Whanganui community urged to join decision-making process for the council's long term plan



The consultation period for Whanganui District Council's Long-Term Plan 2024/34 is now open and the council is urging the community to join the decision-making process.

With a proposed 10.6 percent average rate increase planned for next year, Mayor Andrew Tripe says the aim is to strike a balance between keeping rates rises as low as possible, while meeting the community's most important needs.

"There are a number of big, important choices outlined in the draft Long-Term Plan and the reality is that we need to make some difficult decisions that reflect the current economic environment. We want to have aspirations for our future, while also keeping rates as affordable as possible.

"It is well-highlighted that there is massive rates pressure across the country, mainly because of the three I's – inflation, interest rates, and insurance. While originally we were looking at an increase of over 17 percent in our rates for next year, we've worked inside the council to find ways to reduce this to the proposed 10.6 percent – but this will require changes to some of our services."

Some of the proposals for service changes in the draft Long-Term Plan include: the future of the Whanganui East Pool, the Repertory Theatre, the Winter Gardens, the Rotokawau Virginia Lake aviary, and ownership of New Zealand Glassworks. Also suggested are changes to the Davis Library's opening hours, a review of drop-off points for rural rubbish – and reduced funding for Mainstreet's hanging flower baskets and for community grants.

"When we consult with the community on important decisions, we have to state what our preferred

option is – but this is just the starting point. We want the community to tell us what's important to them, and what services they are prepared to trade-off in order to keep rate increases as low as possible. This is an important part of how we make our final decisions."

As part of the Long-Term Plan consultation, the council is also seeking input from the community around what long-term investments would make the district more liveable and attractive, and set it up for financial stability over the long-term. The council is proposing funding for a number of big projects including; core infrastructure, the Royal Whanganui Opera House, an upgraded Wanganui Surf Lifeguard Service facility, marae development, and the development of a hotel and car park that can support more large-scale events.

"While it might seem counterintuitive to be talking about reducing services to save money, and also be looking at in-

vesting for the future, it's important to understand that these two things are funded very differently," explains Mayor Andrew. "Investing for the future does not impact our rates so much in the short term because we generally use borrowing to pay for these types of projects. This means the cost is spread over many years, and also across future ratepayers who benefit from the investment in long-term assets."

Formal consultation on the 2024-34 Long-Term Plan will close on 2 May 2024. All information, including the consultation document and submission form, are available at <https://www.whanganui.govt.nz/Your-Council/Have-Your-Say/Consultations/Long-Term-Plan-2024-2034>. As well as online, submissions can be via email, phone or printed copy.

Elected members and council staff will also be present at the below events to talk with the community directly.

Thursday 11 April
2:00pm - 4:00pm
Hakeke Street Community Centre,
65 Hakeke Street,
Whanganui East

Saturday 13 April
11:00am - 2:00pm
Lorenzdale Park,
70 Swiss Avenue,
Gonville

Tuesday 16 April
11:00am - 1:00pm
Splash Centre,
220 London Street,
Springvale

Friday 19 April
10:00am - 12:00pm
Castlecliff Community Hub & Library
10 Rangiora Street,
Castlecliff

Wednesday 24 April
11:00am - 1:00pm
Majestic Square,
98 Victoria Avenue,
Whanganui

Goods wanted for Alzheimer's garage sale

Alzheimer's Whanganui needs more goods for a garage sale they are planning for Saturday, 20 April. The sale will raise funds to help support those in our community living with dementia. These include toys, household items, furniture, bric a brac – you name it. Please ensure they are usable and in workable condition.

You can drop the goods off at 4/236 Victoria Avenue, although if you need them collected, please advise and they will organise a date and time. Contact them on 06 345 8833 or admin@alzheimerswhanganui.org.nz.

The garage sale starts at 8am for the early birds and continues till 1pm. It is cash only.

Talking menopause

This seminar is what every woman needs to hear, whether you are perimenopausal or postmenopausal, you will benefit from it.

What many women perhaps are aware of, is that the effects of menopause are lifelong – we are not in a phase. So those who should benefit from the seminar are the following:

*A perimenopausal woman who feels out of touch with her brain and body

*A midlife woman who wants to become an older woman who's vibrant, energetic and healthy.

*A postmenopausal woman, who needs to know what the effects of having no oestrogen are, and how to create a healthy, active life.

The seminar will discuss how menopause impacts your health, plus more on exercise, weight loss, nutrition, incontinence, and bladder and bowel concerns.

Many people missed out last time, so you will need to register early to reserve your seat. Tickets are \$30, with proceeds going to the Whanganui Women's Network. To register, email results@herfitness.co.nz, or phone 348 9121. Refer to the advert on this page for more information.

TALKING MENOPAUSE

A conversation every woman in midlife needs to be part of. Grab your girlfriends and come and unwrap why menopause can seem so confusing.

Let's talk about:

- Menopause, sex, hormones, the bits inbetween and what happens when!
- Exercise, weight gain and why it is so common.
- The role of exercise at any age, especially across midlife.
- Foods that support menopausal women.
- Tips to manage bowel, bladder and vaginal changes.

DETAILS

DATE: Tuesday 30 April
TIME: 6.00pm - 8.00pm
VENUE: St Paul's Church Hall, Cooks Street
COST: \$30 with proceeds to The Women's Network - Whanganui

REGISTRATIONS REQUIRED

results@herfitness.co.nz 348 9121

THE PANEL

Deborah Gardiner

Menopause Consultant & Owner of Whanganui Menopause Health Centre



Angela Hewson

Personal Trainer & Owner of Her Fitness Ltd



Karen Sewell

Chef & Owner of The Honest Kitchen



Lane Malan

Physiotherapist at Physio Direct



Help us with the big decisions

Have your say on our Long-Term Plan



The Long-Term Plan is our 10 year plan and shows the whole picture of how activities are managed, delivered and funded – which has a flow on effect on our rates.

There are some difficult, big decisions to make, so we want to hear your feedback on what you'd like prioritised.

Find our consultation document, the questions we're asking you and submit your feedback here

www.whanganui.govt.nz/HaveYourSay

or pop in and see us at 101 Guyton Street.



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Local optometrist part of Eye Care for Africa team going to Tanzania

Local optometrist Lillian Lei from Whanganui Specsavers will be part of a team organised by Eye Care for Africa, based in Hawkes Bay. On May 9 the team will be leaving for the east African country of Tanzania.

The team includes another optometrist, Niall McCormack, and a GP, Dr Peter Culham, both from Hawkes Bay. Other members of the team, who come from New Zealand, Australia and Scotland will be responsible for transport, preliminary eye testing and setting up an eye clinic.

The team will initially set up a day clinic in a school at the foot of Mt Kilimanjaro before heading more remotely to the city of Shinyanga as well as Eluwai with clinics for local Maasai people.

Lillian says, "We will

be taking ready reader glasses with a range of powers to provide patients with glasses as suitable as possible." She explains, "We normally opt for the dominant eye which for most people is the right eye." Their equipment is "hand-held which I am comfortable with."

For the first week, Lillian will be involved with other outreach projects, with an opportunity for some sightseeing, including three days in the Serengeti. The second week will be mainly testing in the eye clinic as well as in schools.

The Shinyanga Eye Clinic is a new purpose-built building for eye care, thanks to the fundraising effort of Niall who walked from the top of Aotearoa to Bluff to help raise funds. This region has a population of over two million people all without access to profes-



Lillian Lei

sional eye care until now. By comparison, New Zealand has a population

of just over five million, with over 150 ophthalmologists. Tanzania, with a population of around 50 million, has fewer than 50.

Lillian was born in Southern China but came to New Zealand when she was only six months old. She grew up in Auckland, and after graduating in 2022, came to Whanganui to work with Specsavers.

Relying on advice from Travel Agents she has had the full range of vaccinations including Yellow Fever, Hepatitis A, Typhoid, Rabies, Cholera, the flu as well as a Covid booster, and a course of anti-malaria pills.

As the newsletter from Eye Care for Africa says, "The African experience is monumental for all involved. Those who embark will never be the same."

To donate to the cause go to the website: <https://givealittle.co.nz/cause/lilians-tanzania-eye-care-outreach-trip-in-may>

Castlecliff Coast Care received over \$1100 from Artists Open Studios

Artist Pauline Allomes donated one of her pictures for a silent auction to benefit Castlecliff Coast Care during the recent Artists Open Studios. The winner was Lorne, who with her husband Bill Davis, manage the Eltham Gallery.

Lorne won the silent auction for Pauline's donated picture, which resulted in a donation to Coast Care of \$795.

In addition, members of Castlecliff Coast Care sold refreshments in Pauline's garden during the event. These members were Lyn, Jan, Ronis and Michael, Laurel, Cherie, Kat-



Pauline and Lorne with the picture.

rina, Glenis and Ann. These refreshments over the four days, raised a further \$312 So, a grand total of \$1,107 was raised.

Coast Care wishes to say "Thank you to everyone for their time and support, and especially Pauline for her generosity."

Music from iconic movies to feature in brass concert



Brass Whanganui

Brass Whanganui is set to enchant its audience with their upcoming concert "CINEMATIC BRASS".

Wonderful music from iconic movies, provides a musical extravaganza which promises to take the audience on a journey through the captivating movie sound tracks of our lives. From the soaring melodies of Star Wars to the sombre and haunting tune from Shindler's List, the band will showcase a diverse range of cinematic compositions.

Led by our talented musical director Bruce Jellyman, along with the superb commentary of Jonathon Greenwell the band is renowned for their musical and passionate performances bringing these pieces together with their rich, full-bodied sounds.

Whether you are a film buff, a music lover, a brass bandie or just looking for a high-quality afternoon of entertainment, CINEMATIC BRASS is certain to delight. Don't miss this opportunity to witness BRASS WHANGANUI in

action as they pay tribute to some of the most memorable music in cinematic history.

Concert is on Sunday, April 14th, 2pm at the Prince Edward Auditorium, Whanganui Collegiate School, off Grey Street.

Tickets can be purchased on line (go to our Facebook or our website, brasswhanganui.co.nz, and follow the links) or door sales from 1:30pm. Adults \$35 - Seniors \$30 - Students and Children \$20.

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Have your say on proposed Parking Bylaw changes



Whanganui District Council is carrying out a review of its Parking Bylaw and Controls and is seeking community feedback on proposed changes to parking exemptions, meters and tariffs. The proposed changes are intended to improve parking turnover in Whanganui's CBD, as well as help off-set anticipated rates rises.

The council's community and customer experience general manager, Marianne Cavanagh, says, "The changes we're suggesting are intended to make parking in Victoria Avenue and connecting side streets as fair and accessible to everyone in the community. Our goal is also to extend parking options for people who need to park in or near the CBD for extended periods because of study or mobility needs."

The proposed changes to the parking bylaw are to:

- expand the SuperGold card parking scheme in the CBD to include Saturday mornings
- increase free parking for UCOL students on Taupō Quay from two hours to three hours to allow for lecture times
- add three extra mobility parks to the CBD area
- introduce 14 new parking meters on Rutland, Ridgeway, Guyton and St Hill streets
- increase parking charges (also referred as tariffs) in Victoria Avenue, CBD side streets, council-operated off-street carparks and council-operated rental carparks to increase turnover.

Marianne Cavanagh says, "Parking tariffs are a way of managing parking demand in our CBD by putting a cost on the time spent in a parking space. By also increasing the hourly rate for parking tariffs and installing new meters on several CBD side streets, we want to reduce traffic congestion and high-occupancy parking rates in Victoria Avenue while encouraging people to park at a lower rate on side streets or off-street parks."

The increase in parking tariffs will also contribute to the council's ability to alleviate future rates rises. At the moment, there are effectively three parking "zones" in Whanganui's CBD where tariffs differ. Under the proposed tariff changes, there would only be two tariff areas – "premium" parks in Victoria Avenue (with a proposed increase from \$2.00 to \$3.00 per hour), and side street and off-street carparks (with a proposed standard tariff of \$2.00 per hour).

Marianne Cavanagh says, "The ability to move between parks in the same 'zone' will increase the turnover of carparks in the central city area, and change people's parking habits to help reduce the frustrating levels of congestion often found at peak times in the CBD."

"By using the pay-by-plate system on Victoria Avenue parking meters, people can move from one premium park in the avenue to another with the same payment if metered time is still available," Marianne Cavanagh says. "The same applies to side street and off-street parks – if you still have paid time on meters in these areas, you can take your payment with you and move from one park to another."

Consultation on these changes is now open and runs until 5.00pm on Thursday, 2 May 2024. For all consultation information and to have your say, please visit: www.whanganui.govt.nz/have-your-say

NZ's Premier Elton John Tribute Show in Whanganui

"The Elton John Experience - Starring Michael Stodart" will be in Whanganui at the Royal Opera House on Saturday, 18 May, reinforcing its reputation as New Zealand's No. 1 Elton John tribute show. This spectacular showcase captures the essence of Elton John's extravagance and musical genius.

Backed by an exceptional band, Michael Stodart delivers an unforgettable powerhouse performance that has recently graced prestigious events, including the 2022 NZ Event Awards, New Year's Eve at Napier Soundshell, and headlining the 2023 Zuru Night Glow, Balloons Over Waikato event in March 2023.

Michael Stodart, an internationally seasoned musician and singer/songwriter, brings a wealth of experience to the stage. His impressive career includes sharing stages with musical giants such as Van Morrison, Ian Dury, and Joe Cocker, along with collaborating in the studio with legendary Elton John producer Gus Dugdeon. After spending 25 years performing, writing, and recording in London, Stodart returned to New Zealand in 2015, enriching the local music scene with his exceptional talents.

In 2020, Stodart took the Kiwi music scene by storm, establishing New Zealand's first Elton John tribute show. The production quickly became a nationwide sensation, winning over teams of fans across the country with its authentic tribute to the legendary Elton John.

To get early tickets please go to the Royal Opera House or go to the Ticketek website.



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Ph: 06 344 4087



Aramoho Kindergarten
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Whanganui
Ph: 06 343 9798



Barsanti Kindergarten
19 Rogers Street
Whanganui
Ph: 06 344 5113



Central Kindergarten
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Ph: 06 345 7183



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Ph: 06 343 9332

New Chief Medical Officer at Whanganui Hospital

Health New Zealand | Te Whatu Ora in Whanganui is welcoming Dr. Nathalie de Vries into the role of Chief Medical Officer (CMO) for Whanganui Hospital.

Dr. de Vries graduated from the University of Groningen, in the Netherlands, and has a Master's degree and PhD in Medicine, and has more than 20 years' experience as a paediatrician.

Dr. de Vries says she felt inspired to pursue this speciality as every age group comes with different medical chal-

lenges.

"A paediatrician needs to be creative and skilled to diagnose, then make a management plan," says Dr de Vries. "An example of this is babies don't tell you what is wrong with them, you need the parents' story combined with your clinical skills, to make a diagnosis and management plan. When examining a toddler, you cannot ask them to breath in when listening to their chest. Teenagers, as we all know, bring even different challenges! Pa-

ediatrics is a lot of fun to work in while also being very rewarding."

Dr. de Vries joins the Whanganui Hospital team after almost ten years at Health NZ - MidCentral in Palmerston North, working as a Paediatrician, Prevocational Supervisor (supervision of first- and second-year doctors) as well as Associate Dean for Otago University looking after Trainee Interns.

She now brings that wealth of experience, expertise, and a commitment to excellence

in healthcare, to the Whanganui Hospital team.

"I am committed to advancing healthcare delivery and patient outcomes in our community," says Dr de Vries. "I really want to make a difference for staff and the patients in the community. In Paediatrics, you can make a difference for a lot of children, and in this role of Chief Medical Officer, I will be able to make a difference for the whole community."

Dr. de Vries



St John needs more drivers and assistants for their health shuttles



Jen in front of one of the health shuttles.

St John takes patients through to Palmerston North Hospital Monday to Friday. They operate two Toyota High Ace vans, which can take four patients and one wheelchair patient. One van goes through three times a week, taking renal patients for dialysis treatment, while the other is available for patients with other treatment needs, such as a person with brain injury who is taken to the Strive Centre two times a week. Other regular requirements include eye operations, urology and specialist scans.

Jen Barber, Team Leader for the Health Shuttles, says they are busier than ever. The renal patients for example are picked up from home soon after 5.30am to be in Palm-

erston North by 7.30am. Their treatment is normally over by 1 or 1.30pm, so the van returns to take them back to their homes in Whanganui.

There are always two volunteers – the driver and an assistant, who helps to carry bags, ensure seat belts are on, helping to operate a hoist for anyone in a wheelchair, and generally making sure the trip goes smoothly.

The age of patients can vary hugely from someone in their 30s through to elderly people. Unfortunately, the possibil-

ity of a kidney transplant is not good, and so most renal patients have to expect years of being transported.

Jen volunteered back in 2018 when she retired early. But as she says, "I got bored, so went to the Volunteer Centre and was soon volunteering as an assistant." Because she has an eye issue, she doesn't do any driving. "I love it," she says, and every fortnight, along with her husband, they come and give the vans a wash as well.

She and another volunteer prepare the rosters

and volunteers can be expected to be called upon three days a month. There will be at least one driver every day and if they need someone at short notice, they will send out a group text asking who might be available.

It doesn't have to be two trips in one day per volunteer. They can be broken up as the days can be quite long, especially with early morning starts.

If you are interested in helping out St John for this very valuable and needed role, give Karen Rattray a call on 0800 266 547.

UCOL graduation - a celebration for many whānau



Some of the 188 students who graduated in Whanganui last week

Classmates, friends, whānau and a few tears - UCOL Whanganui | Te Pūkenga gathered them all as 188 ākonga (students) celebrated their graduation last week.

Across the four campuses in Whanganui, Manawatū, Wairarapa, and Horowhenua, a total of 1,329 graduates will be eligible to cross the stage.

Among them was this year's Valedictorian - Charlene McGechan, graduating with her Bachelor of Nursing.

"It just feels surreal," says McGechan. "I'm the first in my family to hold a degree and with that came sacrifices I had to make along the way. I only hope for my children and other Pasifika women to be inspired to become better versions of themselves and to embrace the opportunities we have here in New Zealand."

McGechan said that when she was told she had been named as Valedictorian, she was overwhelmed. "It was huge news. In that moment, my late parents came to mind. It was already

an achievement to get a degree but to be given the honour of Valedictorian is humbling.

"It's also quite a bittersweet feeling. UCOL became like my home away from home, I spent long nights studying there. Everybody knew each other by name, the staff were helpful and so supportive - I'll miss being there everyday."

During the ceremony, the largest Whanganui cohort was for those who had completed their Bachelor of Nursing, with 35 graduates. Also celebrating were two Masters students. Jasmine Groves, Operations Lead says UCOL is delighted with the accomplishments of all their graduates. "This is such a special moment for our ākonga - to have their efforts recognised and celebrate with whānau and friends all that they achieved. It can feel like an ending but it's actually the opposite. This is us celebrating the beginning of their careers, and all that they will go out and do with the skills they have learned."

Friends of Westmere Lake would love more volunteers

Westmere Lake is about a five-minute drive out of town on the road to Mowhanau. It is very different from Virginia Lake. Much less developed, more forest area, greater bird life, including some friendly hens.

You can walk around the lake in 20 minutes, although there are benches and tables for a picnic not too far from the start. The number of walkers has been increasing.

To keep on enhancing the attractions of the Lake, Friends of Westmere Lake, was set up 15 years ago. They do everything from weeding (especially convolvulus), pest control, planting and transplanting native trees and shrubs, transforming it into a native sanctuary. They meet every Wednesday 9 to 11 and then head off together for coffee.

During the planting season, they would plant up to 100 trees. Most would have come from the lakeside and grown to transplanting size



Dean, Ray, Neil and Rorie. (Brian was checking his traps and John was away.)

by two of the volunteers – Neil and John. Having planted so many over the years, it is now more a case of filling in the odd gaps. The trees have been selected in part to encourage bird life. Fantails and tui are now abundant with the occasional kererū. Apart from the variety of ducks, a black swan with 5 or 6 cygnets is in residence.

Another volunteer – Brian – looks after the 27 traps. They would catch about 2 or 3 rats each week.

Otherwise, it is a case of cutting back unwanted growth, removing fallen macrocarpa and gum branches, weeding and grubbing.

The group has received some donations from Horizons and Forest and Bird as well as some free trees from Parnells.

The group is down to six volunteers and would love to have welcome two to three more. They are a friendly bunch who enjoy what they do, being out-

side and with the satisfaction of contributing to a valuable community asset. They work from 9am to 11am on a Wednesday morning then head off to a café for coffee. A reasonable standard of fitness is helpful.

If you interested in volunteering, give Neil, (he has been part of the group for 11 years) a call on 345 8845. (He adds "Before midnight please"), or Dean on 027 271 8076.



Whanganui Air Ambulance Trust



The Whanganui Air Ambulance Trust was established on the 8th of February 1996 by Trevor Colway (a former Air Transport Auxiliary pilot during World War II) and is a registered Charitable Trust.

The principal purpose of the trust is to encourage and assist Air Ambulance services in the Whanganui District to provide specialised medical equipment necessary for these services.

OPEN DAY

Sunday 14th April 2024 11am - 3pm

Air Whanganui Hangars, 23 Airport Rd, Whanganui Airport
Bring the family for a fun-filled day out for a great
Community cause

Static Aircraft Displays featuring:

- P51-D Mustang (12pm - 2pm)
- RNZAF A109 Light Utility Helicopter
- B200 King Air & C90 King Air - Air Ambulance aircraft
- Spitfire - 7/8 Replica
- De Havilland DH 82A Tiger Moth

Other exciting opportunities and attractions:

- Chat to an Air Ambulance Captain and learn about their rewarding role
- Take a photo with an Air Ambulance Captain
- Chat to the dedicated Flight Nurse Team with Q & A sessions
- CPR Demonstrations
- See Air Whanganui's Patient Transfer Service van and learn how a patient is transferred safely and seamlessly onto an Air Ambulance aircraft
- World War II Jeeps and Motorcycles on display

Earn your Wings

Children have the opportunity to become an honorary Air Ambulance Captain

Food and Drink Stalls

Stay hydrated and keep hunger at bay with food and drinks available to purchase

- Sausage Sizzle onsite
- Coffee Cart
- Ice Cream van

Scenic Flight Raffle

Buy a \$2.00 Raffle ticket and go in the draw to win a 20 minute scenic flight on a Beech B200 King Air - 5 chances to win !
Additional raffle prizes of Family passes on the Paddle Steamer Waimarie to be won !

The Draw will be conducted on the Monday after the Open Day and the winners will be advised by phone that night. The date of the Scenic flight is yet to be confirmed.

Collection Buckets will be onsite - so please bring cash and donate towards this fantastic Community cause

- Please note that the postponement date for this event is Sunday 21 April
- postponement will be advertised through social media on Saturday 13 April 10am

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Songwriting competition Community drumming workshop



Brian Baker

There is no doubt that songwriting is an art. What many people, including aspiring songwriters, do not realise is that like other arts, it can be taught. And that is precisely what Brian Baker will be doing at the Musicians Club in the coming weeks as a build-up to Whanganui's Songwriting Competition that takes place in May.

Brian has recently relocated to Whanganui and he is fast becoming a sensation on the local music scene. Born in Wellington and educated in Northland, Brian enjoyed a forty-year career in Australia as a singer, songwriter, music producer and performer. Now, back in his homeland, he brings his years of experience to enrich our local scene. You need only take a look at his website to appreciate the depth of his talent. <https://brianbaker.nz/>

Brian is presenting two short, focused songwriting classes in conjunction with the Whanganui Musicians Club to help local songwriters bring their best to the annual Songwriting Competition. These classes will examine what goes into writing a great song and give participants skills to help them perfect, tweak, hone and finish their songs, ready for entry into the competition.

Whether you are a complete novice who has never even thought of writing a song or a seasoned musician with many songs to your credit, you are sure to learn something new as well as be entertained. Take note of these dates:

The two teaching seminars are on the next two Sundays – 14 and 21 April – from 1-3pm. The cost to attend is \$10. The venue is the Whanganui Musicians Club, 65 Drews Ave.

The 2024 Songwriting Competition runs in conjunction with NZ Music Month, with two weekends 18/19 May and 25/26 May

of rehearsals with a Musicians Club House Band. The main performance will be on Friday, 31 May, with members of the public attending. More details will follow, but if you fancy your chances of taking the prize, or if you simply want to expand your musical horizon, come down to the club on Sunday.



Participants in the 2021 workshop

By Tracy Coneybeer
Community Drumming Whanganui are thrilled to be hosting another djembe

drumming workshop on April 20-21st at the Duncan Pavilion with master drummer Yaw Asumadu.

With a little bit of funding help from Creative Communities, we are able to bring the exceptionally talented Yaw to facilitate two days of sharing culture, learning, drumming and fun. The cost is very affordable - \$40 single day or \$70 for both. Drum hire is also available for a minimal fee.

African drum master Yaw grew up surrounded by music in Ghana, where he learned his art from masters at an early age. Drummer, composer, African flautist, bass guitarist, xylophone and marimba player Yaw has performed internationally with a very impressive list of orchestras and musical groups, including the Ghanaian Pan Orchestra, and in London with the Adzido Pan African Dance En-

semble. Yaw performed with the fabulous Ozi Ozza at the Musicians' Club. If you were fortunate enough to see them on their way to Cupa Dupa festival you will know this man is an amazing musician.

The last time we held a workshop in 2021 people came from far and wide to join the magic. We are hoping that Whanganui folk make the most of this opportunity too, as they don't come our way often.

To register for this workshop, April 20-21, at the Pavilion, contact us via Facebook Messenger 'Community Drumming Whanganui', by phone or text at 022 6820 136 or 022 220 0024 or via email: communitydrummingwhanganui@gmail.com.

School holiday activities at Whanganui Regional Museum



Whanganui Regional Museum Pou Manaaki/ Visitor Experience Lead, Max Reeves makes a gilded card, in preparation for school holiday activities at the Museum.

Photo credit: Karen Hughes/Whanganui Regional Museum

session.

Whanganui Regional Museum Autumn School Holiday Programme

- April 2024:
- Tues 16 April 10am-12pm Gilded Cards
 - Thurs 18 April 10am-12pm Make a Bolung Gu
 - Wed 24 April 10am-4.30pm Paper Chinese Lanterns 6pm-7.30pm Night at the Museum

For all school holiday activities at the Museum, participation is by gold coin donation or koha. An adult must always accompany children. The full schedule of activities is on the Museum website www.wrm.org.nz and on the Facebook page. Bookings can be made by telephone; 06 349 1110 or by email: info@wrm.org.nz.

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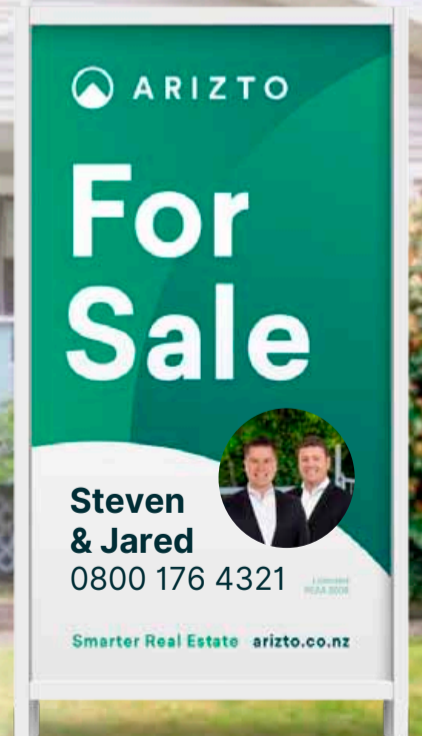


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Donations Welcomed

2024 Relay for Life fundraiser produces great results

The Cancer Society reports that “the Relay For Life had incredible community engagement with 48 teams and around 650 participants. This was the first year that RFL has been held overnight since 2020, and the feedback from the community has been exceptional.”

Participants were able to enjoy extra activities like Yoga from Whanganui Yoga Centre and Yoga Bee, the Whanganui District Council Takaro Play Trailer, Whanganui Drill-by junior skills and drills, a Silent Disco, an outdoor movie, and an incredible entertainment lineup. The soup tent also proved to

be very popular during the late hours – running out two hours early. It is a definite for repeating next year.

Jess Edmonds from the Cancer Society says, “We introduced a ‘power hour’ hosted by Primal HQ Gym. 40 people competed in teams of five doing a 30-minute circuit. Pita Pit donated an amazing platter for the winning team, as well as pizzas from Dominos, which were shared out amongst the runners up.

“We also introduced timing trackers this year. Ngā Tawa, Collegiate, Cullinane, Whanganui Girl’s College, and Whanganui

High School students competed to complete fastest laps and as many laps as possible.

“The atmosphere on the sidelines on Sunday was electric with WHS and WGC kids screaming and cheering each other on. We had no idea that having the trackers was going to inspire this much energy.

“The result had WGC winning with 518 laps, WHS a close 497 and Primal HQ Gym 323. Cullinane dropped down to a skeleton crew over night with their Principal Tony McBride taking the mid-night shift through to the early hours, but they were a close 4th with 309 laps.”

Aimee Nottingham from the Cancer Society fundraising team says, “The generosity was overwhelming, from local businesses who were so eager to help pull off an incredible event”. Prizes were given for best team fundraising, individual fundraiser, healthiest team, happiest team, team spirit, and most visible participant. The School Spirit Award – “taken out by Girls College for their outstanding effort in fundraising activities, enthusiasm, energy, engagement in the event and helping with organisational tasks.”

The Robert Bartley Foundation kindly donated the use of their Health Bus, and The Living Waters medical team provided free skin checks from it during the event. Out of the many people they saw they caught 14 skin cancers.

Many participants challenge themselves to support the cause and to



honour the memory of a loved one or the journey that someone close is on. Adrian Gianotti from team Xero to Hero, who wanted to pay homage to his sister in-law who had to endure 17 hours of pain during her cancer journey while on a recent flight. He figured he could do 17 hours on the track – he did 18. Josiah Whenuaroa did 100km and a combined total of 276 with his two other teammates. In his

words “It took the mind and body somewhere it hasn’t been before... a small sacrifice for a big cause”.

Jess expresses the Cancer Society’s appreciation, saying, “The Whanganui Relay For Life is grateful for the continued support from Mitre10 Mega with their trailer raffle which generated \$10,000, and new business partners Property Brokers Whanganui and New World

Whanganui. Without this level of support the event simply could not happen.” “We are taking expressions of interest for Relay

For Life committee and volunteer roles, if this is something you are interested in, please call the centre.”

Get your tickets for the \$7000 Fiji holiday raffle

A Fiji holiday package valued at up to \$7,000 has been donated to the 2024 Whanganui Relay For Life, thanks to House of Travel. The raffle has been organised by Carla McKinnon, a born and bred local, and owner of House of Travel Whanganui with a community heart.

One motivation for Carla at House of Travel was to honour their colleague Amy Sinnema, who recently lost her battle with cancer.

There are 1500 tickets available at \$10 each, with all proceeds going towards supporting the clients of

the Whanganui-Rangitikei-Waimarino Cancer Society.

You can buy tickets from <https://events.humanitix.com/hotrflaffle>, or at the Cancer Society office at 3 Koromiko Road. Tickets will also be sold at stalls in Victoria Avenue and at Trafalgar Square at designated times as well as some supportive businesses who are selling on behalf. If any other businesses would like to sell on behalf, contact Rachel Pedley on 348 7402.

So far Relay For Life has raised \$80,000, and hopefully, raffle sales will increase that figure to beyond \$90,000.

words “It took the mind and body somewhere it hasn’t been before... a small sacrifice for a big cause”.

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Whanganui Men's Shed needs a permanent home



Ivan looking over the site in Handley Street.

Whanganui's Men's Shed was established back in 2010 and has been a member of Men-shed NZ since 2012. It is one of nine Men sheds in the Manawatu-Whanganui region.

After being based at a large shed in the old UCOL campus site in Wicksteed Street, last year, they had to shift to a new location in Peat Street. However, that site, the old United Station clubrooms, is only available for three years, when its owner, Power Co, needs the land that the building is on back.

The members have been researching and searching all options in the past year and

have a possible site for a new build. It is the old women's bowls club in Handley Street. The old clubrooms are now occupied (and renovated) by the Whanganui Camera Club, but the courts are available and suitable for a permanent home for the Men's Shed. The area would be split 60/40% with the Camera Club.

The Council has approved the use of the site by the Men's Shed but the big issue is the need to raise enough funds to cover the cost of a build. Manager Ivan Stick says, "We have considered moving an old building to the site, but the cost is similar to that of a new build. Our preference is for a new building."

They have thought through different possibilities. As Ivan says, "We could go smaller initially, complete the base and leave the fit out till later, have a small shed and add modules."

Ivan adds, "Other Men's Sheds have been able to get the funding necessary for new builds, and we would love to hear from anyone who could help us." They have raised the possibility of some naming rights to individual bays, but as Ivan points out, "We need to work within the guidelines of the parent body."

If anyone has ideas or possible funding, please contact Ivan on 027 229 0994.

WHANGANUI CLUB RUGBY



STARTS FRIDAY 12 APRIL
See you there!

TASMAN
LEATHERS OF
NEW ZEALAND.

Good profit made for Whanganui Rugby Union

The Whanganui Rugby Union made a profit for the year of about \$90,000.

That figure was confirmed to the RCP by Whanganui union chairman Jeff Phillips.

The union's annual meeting was held this week.

Jeff said the profit from the year had been invested. That was because New Zealand Rugby was going through financial challenges. Investing the profit would give the Whanganui union a buffer, Jeff said.

Jeff is in his 10th year as the union chairman

and he said it would be his last year in the position. It was time to refresh and get a new pair of eyes, he said.

Whanganui Premier Club Rugby starts this Saturday, with the bye eliminated from last season.

Ratana and Marton are in the premier grade this year, giving the grade six teams, with games starting at 2.35pm.

Ratana is hosting Marton, Marist is travelling to Taihape, and Kaierau is at home, at the Country Club, to Border.

Jeff Phillips



Admire, even wear traditional Chinese costumes - April 20



As part of Chinese Costume Day, the local Whanganui Chinese Association is having a presentation of traditional Chinese costumes in the Atrium at the UCOL Campus, 7 Rutland Street, on Saturday, 20 April, from 11am to 2pm.

But it will be more than observing colourful costumes. There will be an opportunity for children and adults (both male and female), to dress up in traditional costumes. You can take a photo with their sign and send it to Whanganui Chinese Association's Facebook

to join their competition. There will be a prize for the one with the most likes.

Calligraphy is a great skill to have. There will be a demonstration on how to do it, followed by a chance to give it a go yourself.

Entrance is through the car park and if in doubt follow the sound of the Chinese drumming. If you are at the Saturday Market, make sure you don't leave the area before coming to experience the Chinese costumes.

The highlight of the event will be a selection

of costumes in the style of the Han Dynasty, described as China's Golden Age, from 206BC to 220AD.

The Mayor, Andrew Tripe and the local MP, Carl Bates, will be there.

There will be some cultural games to get involved in. Have you ever tried picking up ping pong balls with chopsticks? Get some practice in. Then there is a 'Wishing Tree' - throw a little ball and make a wish. Another activity will be to colour in a dragon. All materials will be there, and children can win a prize.



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STARTS FRIDAY 12 APRIL
See you there!

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Club rugby starts Friday for the Women's teams and this Saturday for the Men's teams

Whanganui representative rugby captain Dane Whale will play for Marton this season.

Whale has transferred from Taihape.

Marton is one of two newcomers to the Whanganui premier competition, which starts on Saturday.

Whale will be able to guide Marton on its as-

signments, being an astute first five-eighths.

Marton plays Ratana on Saturday, with the latter team at home in an important season in which it, too, has returned to the premier grade.

Ratana is celebrating its centenary this year, and some players have returned to the club for this special season. It is under-



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stood that Ratana will also have a women's team playing this season.

Having won four straight premier titles, the first team to achieve the feat, Border will be away to Kaierau in its opening game.

It has lost an outstanding player in Craig Clare, the team's general, in its

golden period. Clare has retired.

Clare made a special impact in the final last year, when he won the game against Taihape with a conversion from the sideline in the 79th minute.

He played the game with a fractured bone in his face. For the Border players,

it is now "Life without Craig" for the match at the Kaierau Country Club.

Kaierau has had two pre-season games with losses to Feilding Yellow and Stratford.

Club chairman Darrell Robinson said Kaierau's form against Stratford had been encouraging, with the team competitive until the last part of the game.

The Marist premier side had one pre-season match, against Southern of Taranaki, and was light on numbers.

Marist's senior teams Knights and Celtics, have had two games each and have performed well.

Marist and Kaierau will seek this season to break a long drought since a Whanganui town club won the premiers title.

Missing from last year's premier competition is Ruapehu, which is dropping back to the senior grade because of player numbers.

Pirates are also playing in the senior competition this season.



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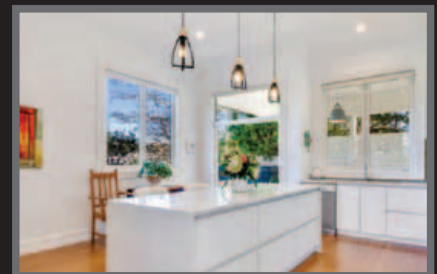
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POPPY DAY



Collection Days, 18 & 20 April Please give generously

Who are New Zealand's veterans?

New Zealand has about 35,000 veterans of recognised operational deployments. Of these, about 28,000 have served since the end of the Vietnam War – around three quarters of our total Returned population.

Tens of thousands more have served in the armed forces without participating in a recognised operational deployment. The Service population is estimated at 100,000 men and women.

RSA exists to support New Zealand's Returned and Service personnel and their families. This includes constabulary members of the New Zealand Police Force who have deployed on overseas operations.

Who does RSA support?

RSA offers help to servicemen and women of all ages and all service backgrounds. RSA support is available to people who have served in conflicts such as Vietnam, Bosnia, East Timor and Afghanistan – as well as personnel who haven't been on overseas deployment at all.

Those we support don't need to be members of the RSA. We are here to assist both past and present servicemen and women; we are the Returned and Services Association.

Poppy Appeal donations help service people and their families in situations where no other means of assistance are available.

Anzac Day - the history of the poppy

The familiar red poppy has been a symbol of remembrance in New Zealand for 101 years.

It's one of those funny little quirks of history, New Zealand's Poppy Day sets it apart from the rest of the world.

While New Zealanders wear poppies to remember the fallen on Anzac Day, April 25, you will see poppy sellers on the streets in England, Canada and Australia in November to mark Armistice Day, known as Remembrance Day.

The reason for this is simple.

The poppies were made by widows and orphans in France and the ship bringing them to New Zealand arrived too late for arrangements to be made to sell them for Armistice Day in 1921.

The New Zealand RSA decided to hold them over until Anzac Day the following year, 1922, a decision that set us apart from the rest of the world and gave us our own unique Poppy Day.

The first Poppy Day in New Zealand, April 24, 1922, was a "brilliant success" with many centres selling out of their supply of poppies.

The New Zealand RSA imported silk poppies from France until 1927 and then from the Royal British Legion. Today the poppies are all manufactured by volunteers in Christchurch, and it is an almost year-long job to make the close to one million poppies required to support the Poppy Appeal.

The poppy we wear today has been through a number of design changes since the first silk ones, originally made in France, to the flat felt and then paper poppy designed by British Commander in Chief Earl Haig that is sold today.

Today knitted and

crocheted poppies are being made in their thousands for Anzac Day displays.

The poppy is worn around the world in remembrance, but the red colour had no relevance to blood.

The poppy symbolises the wildflowers that were the first signs of life to grow in the turned soil of French and Belgium cemeteries. The poppies with their red, paper-thin petals were the only things to take root in the lime-rich soils contaminated by the battlefield debris.

Poppy Day has been the RSA's major annual fundraiser for 102 years to provide welfare services for war veterans of all ages.

This is an article written by Levin RSA Historian, Linda Fletcher and included in a message from the Minister of Senior Affairs.



A field of poppies

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POPPY DAY



Collection Days, 18 & 20 April Please give generously

Simply Wrought Iron poppies will support local RSA

How to wear the poppy

Graeme Kiff of Simply Wrought Iron has been making and selling iron poppies for the past three years, and this year they will be available the three days before Anzac Day. A proportion of the proceeds goes to the local RSA, with over \$1000 donated so far.

be any shortages. You can buy by phoning 344 1460, emailing graeme@simplywroughtiron.co.nz, on social media, or by going to the workshop at 309 Heads Road. They are open from 6am to 4.30pm from Monday to Thursday.

plywroughtiron.co.nz, on social media, or by going to the workshop at 309 Heads Road. They are open from 6am to 4.30pm from Monday to Thursday.



Graeme, handing over the donations from last year's sale to previous president of the local RSA.

The poppy is a symbol of remembrance and recognition of sacrifice. On Poppy Day, we exchange a donation for a bright red paper version and proudly pin it to our chest.

As long as you wear the poppy and understand why it's important, that's all that matters.



Many people have many different thoughts and opinions on "poppy etiquette." Some say you should wear the poppy only on Anzac Day, to show you remember fallen soldiers. Others say you should only wear it on your left lapel, nearest to your heart.

Why the Poppy?
Poppies were the first flowers to grow in Flanders' Field after WWI, appearing from amongst the graves of fallen soldiers. The vibrant red flowers have since become internationally recognised symbols of remembrance, sacrifice, hope and new beginnings.

The only rule of the RSA is this: Wear the poppy with pride, and respect.

Madame Anna Guerin, also known as "the Poppy Lady" brought this idea to life. She supported war widows and their children by employing them to manufacture silk poppies, providing an income to those who needed it, while also raising funds for injured soldiers as they returned home.

The initiative spread to New Zealand and the first order placed by RSA was for over 360,000 poppies.

Poppy Day was originally supposed to take place on Armistice Day, 11 November, 1921 – but the ship delivering our poppies was delayed. Nearly a century later, New Zealanders still commemorate and remember service and sacrifice with Poppies in the month of April, around Anzac Day.

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POPPY DAY



Collection Days, 18 & 20 April Please give generously

Tour group to Crete to take poppies with them

Local Whanganui resident Greg Osborne has conducted tours to WW2 battle places such as Gallipoli, North Africa, Italy and Crete for a number of years. Although deciding to retire, he found out there was

enough interest to do a tour to Crete over April, including Anzac Day on the 25th.

The group includes 40 descendants of New Zealand soldiers who fought in Crete, as well as a historian.

He approached the Wanganui RSA for some poppies to take over with the group to be placed on New Zealand graves in Crete. RSA Welfare Trust President Robert Allen had no hesitation in agreeing to the request.

He said, "Engaging with events like Greg's is an excellent way the Wanganui RSA Welfare Trust reaches out to not only its members but also the Whanganui community as a whole."

The group are in Crete now, and will be visiting the main cemetery in Suda Bay. Poppies will be placed on the graves of New Zealand soldiers.

It was on May 20, 1941, when German parachutists invaded the island, which was defended by ANZAC, Greek and British forces led by the New Zealand Major-General Bernard Freyberg, alongside the heroic local population. After ten days, the Allied forces were compelled to evacuate across the Mediterranean Sea to Egypt. 671 New Zealand soldiers were killed, and 2180 were taken as prisoners of war.



Robert Allen and Mac McCallion from the RSA with Greg (seated) and the poppies.

April 25th Anzac Day service starting later

The Whanganui Memorial Anzac Day Parade and Service will start at 7am, following the band, which will start playing at 6.30am and coinciding with a flypast. Representatives from the Māori 28th Battalion will participate before the march past.

The service will be led by the Rev Stephan van Os and Rosemary Anderson. The guest speaker will be the Mayor Andrew Tripe.

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Gallipoli hero's grave to be rededicated this Saturday

Lieutenant Frank Kingdon Turnbull DSO, MC, MID (3) (Mentioned in Dispatches) served in the Wellington Infantry Regiment in World War 1. He was born in Nelson and lived in Whanganui, and is buried along with his wife and two daughters in the Aramoho Cemetery. The grave was unkempt and thanks to the New Zealand Remembrance Army (NZRA), it was restored in 2023 and on Saturday, April 13, it will be rededicated.



Lt Frank Kingdon Turnbull

After Colonel Malone was killed on the summit of Chunuk Bair in the Gallipoli campaign, Turnbull took charge of the battle. Along with 60 colleagues he survived. For his bravery and leadership he was awarded the Military Cross.

He went on to serve on the Western Front and distinguished himself in the battle of Le Quesnoy.

Established in June 2018 by former NZ Army Major Simon Strombom, the New Zealand Remembrance Army (NZRA) is now a nationwide volunteer network committed to remembering the people who served, and to the restoration of all graves and memorials of those people.

The rededication of his grave is from 2 to 2.30pm.

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POPPY DAY



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The origins of Poppy Day Annual RSA Poppy Appeal on April 18 & 20

The poppy reminds us of sacrifices made – both past and present. Poppies were the first flowers that grew in the battlefields of Flanders in Belgium during World War One and are a symbol of remembrance and hope. While the poppy seed can lie for years, poppies can flower only in rooted up soil. After the battles the poppies blossomed.



A Canadian medical officer, Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae, saw the death and suffering and, in a cemetery nearby, red poppies amongst the crosses. He took his notebook and wrote the words of 'In Flanders Fields.' A fellow officer picked up the poem and sent it to English newspapers. While some rejected it, 'Punch' published it on 8 December 1915.

the red poppy an official symbol of remembrance. A French woman, Madame Guerin, attended the event and came up with the idea to selling cloth red poppies to raise money for veterans, their families and those children orphaned and in poverty in northern France due to the war.

Association decided to wait until the day before ANZAC day the following year. Since then, Poppy Day has been intrinsically bound with ANZAC Day in New Zealand.

With World War II, public interest in Poppy Day rocketed. In 1945, 750,000 poppies were distributed - making it one poppy for every two New Zealanders. Poppy Day began helping another generation of war victims.

Professor and humanitarian, Moina Michael, was so touched by McCrae's 'In Flanders Fields' that she wrote a poetry response, 'We Shall Keep the Faith'. She also vowed to wear a red poppy to symbolically remember those who served in the war in response to the first two lines of McCrae's poem - 'In Flanders fields the poppies blow / Between the crosses row on row.'

New Zealander, Colonel Alfred S. Moffett, took Guerin's idea to the New Zealand Returned Soldiers' Association who, in September of 1921, placed an order for over 350,000 poppies with Madame Guerin. Poppy Day was originally intended to be celebrated on Armistice Day (11 November) 1921, along with other Commonwealth nations. Unfortunately, the ship that was carrying the poppies arrived too late, so the New Zealand Returned Soldiers'

1931 In 1931, the first poppies made in New Zealand were by disabled returned soldiers in Auckland and Christchurch.

Production of poppies sold in New Zealand moved offshore in 2010 initially to Australia and by 2012 to China.

Mac McCallion

The annual RSA Poppy Appeal is part of New Zealand's culture, and in Whanganui the appeal will run on Thursday, 18 April, in the CBD and in some suburbs, and on Saturday, 20 April, at supermarkets, with collectors coming from army, navy and air-force cadets, as well as members of the Military History Vehicles group, who will have vehicles on display. Kiwis respond generously to buy a poppy for a gold coin and wear it proudly while remembering the many returned servicemen and women who have represented New Zealand throughout the world.



But it is about so much more than remembrance. The Poppy Appeal funds are how the RSA is able to support veterans and their families, regardless of whether they are RSA members or not.

Today, the needs and numbers have never been greater. New Zealand has over 40,000 veterans – the most since the end of World War II. Three-quarters have served in operations since Vietnam in places such as East Timor, Bosnia, Bougainville, Iraq and Afghanistan.

Many more have served in the military in New Zealand and been engaged in a wide range of service for their country.

All these people carry the scars of their service.

The needs of the modern-day veteran are significant. These include the effects of Post-Traumatic Stress Illness (PTSI) and other conditions brought on by service, together with support with transitioning to civilian life or financial aid in times of hardship.

The sale of poppies provides the necessary funds to assist our local veterans in a wide variety of ways. Mac McCallion from the RSA says, "We ran short of poppies last year. So we have ordered more this year."

WHANGANUI DISTRICT COUNCIL
Te Kaunihira a Rohe o Whanganui

RSA

Anzac Day Parade and Services 2024

Thursday, 25 April 2024

All ex-service personnel, members of the RSA Women's Section, all kindred associations and members of the public are invited to assemble outside Davis Library, Pukenua Queen's Park, at **6.15am sharp** and parade to the Whanganui War Memorial Centre forecourt to take part in the Service of Commemoration at **7.00am**.

Please note: this is a later start time than usual

REFRESHMENTS

At the conclusion of the service a warm invitation is extended to all those participating to tea and coffee on the War Memorial Centre forecourt or to partake of the traditional coffee or rum and coffee at Club Metro, Ridgway Street.

LAYING OF WREATHS

All organisations and schools, who have traditionally laid wreaths, are invited to march in the parade. More information at: www.whanganui.govt.nz/anzac-day

OTHER SERVICES

Pākaraka Service – 9.30am
Waitotara County Memorial, Pākaraka

Brunswick Service – 10.00am
Brunswick War Memorial, cnr of Brunswick and Campbell roads

28th Māori Battalion Service – 11.00am
Pākaitore (Moutoa Gardens)

www.whanganui.govt.nz

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Whanganui bowlers exceptional in Wellington

Collegiate to represent Central Districts in National Junior cricket tournament



The Men's team with their silver medals

The week of 15/16/17 March saw Whanganui's top women and men's bowlers head to Wellington for the annual Intercentre bowls tournament. This involves 26 centres from Far North to Southland. The top two teams from the eight sections qualified for the quarter finals with both our teams achieving this. In the quarter final, four women, unfortunately, met a strong Northland, but despite winning the pairs, they bowled out 2 1.

Meanwhile, the men carried on their winning ways (having only been beaten by Canterbury in section play) by defeating a very strong Southland side led by Sheldon

Bagrie-Howley, who is currently New Zealand's top singles player. Kaylin Huwyler, our singles player, disposed of him easily and with the fours also winning, we moved into the semi-final. Here we met the team from Dunedin, who had won their quarter-final. Again, Kaylin was supreme in winning his match, while the fours, led by Peter Belliss, overcame a strong Dunedin four.

This led us into the final, where we were to meet Wellington, who had won the previous year's competition. Whanganui were striving for a victory they had not achieved since 1984. Again, Kaylin played superb bowls against Ray Martin (a former NZ

rep) to win his game. However, both the fours and pairs were beaten in close tussles, so Wellington went two in row.

The performances from both the men and women were particularly meritorious considering both teams were without some key players due to unavailability, but the future appears very bright for one of the smaller centres in the country.

The 2023-24 season is winding down to having the last stumps drawn, but for the association's two leading cricket schools and the junior representative programme, it has been a very busy run since New Year.

Two Central Districts competitions were won – as the Whanganui Collegiate Colts earned the right to represent CD at the National Junior Secondary School Boys tournament in Palmerston North, March 18-22.

The Colts secured their spot with a series of comfortable victories over the neighbouring CD association's leading junior school teams earlier in the month.

They earned the local qualifier spot with a comfortable 10 wicket win over Whanganui High School Gold, bowled out for just 42, and then repeated the dose against Paraparaumu College with another 10 wicket win after dismissing



Whanganui Collegiate Colts

them for just 21, with bowler Thomas McMurray taking nine wickets on his home pitch.

This was followed up by a comfortable 44-run win over Taranaki's Francis Douglas Memorial College, with the Colts raising 154 off their 40 overs before dismissing the visitors for 110 – as pressure in the field se-

cured three key run-outs. That put the Colts into the CD final with the fancied Napier Boys High School Colts at the neutral venue of Feilding's Kowhai Park.

Again, Collegiate rose to the occasion – bowling Napier out for 135, and then seeing five of their seven batsmen make a solid contribution on the

way to 137-5 by the 34th over.

And so to Palmerston North to face junior teams from some of the best school programmes in the country, and although the Colts finished with only one win from five games, it could so easily have been more.

- Jared Smith (edited)

Come join the 'Walk the World' fundraiser on Sunday, April 21

Each year, Rural Women NZ, Fordell/Mangamahu Branch do an annual walk to raise funds for their local Education Fund, which helps financially for students heading into Secondary School through school uniforms or technology, which has been a great benefit for many families over the years.

They organise a significant walk – this year it will be 13km – and try to include sights of historic significance. Last year the walk was based on Fordell and the surrounding area, and another one including Mangamahu Old Coach Road. Walks that are out of the ordinary are their forte.

This year, the walk will be over private farmland, a bit of beach and some forest. Moderate to good fitness is required, but with only one small but steep hill climb. You will be rewarded with spectacular views and, along the way, points of historical interest, including a very interesting historical feature dating back to the late 19th century.

They recommend you wear good sturdy footwear (not dress sneakers) and carry wet weather gear just in case. You should also bring a light lunch and a water bottle. You will be rewarded again with a traditionally sumptuous Rural Women NZ afternoon tea (all mem-

bers bring cooking – so expect a great feed).

The cost is \$15, which goes towards the cause. It also includes afternoon tea and a raffle ticket. You can purchase extra raffle tickets as well, but please bring cash. Raffle tickets are \$2 each.

You need to register for the walk, and then you will be told where to meet. Please contact Leonora Spark on 027 908 5370 or ljnajspark@gmail.com.

The walk will be in rain or shine. Meet by 9am for a 9.20 departure. The walk should finish around 3pm, but they will not be hurrying. The walk is open to all, but no dogs are allowed.



Golf results

Whanganui Golf Club Results Thursday, 4 April.

B. Simms 42, J. Spooner 40, L. Respringer 38, R. Bullock 38, J. Maslin 37, C. Milne 37, R. Nicholson 37, D. Wilson. 37, R. Stoneman 36, J. Kay 36, B. Pickett 36, P. Schmidt 36, W. Costello 35, W. Jordan 35. **Twos.** P. Hopper, D. Wilson, K. Patel, D. Goodgame, J. Kay. **Feaver ball closest to marker** 1st: C. Feaver **First Vets closest to flag** 14th : J. Spooner. **Canaan Honey voucher longest putt** 18th: D. Dorgan. **Lucky cards** D. Spencer, R. Pryde.

Castlecliff 9 Hole Club Thursday 4 April Putting

Ladies: Joan Coxon 15, Anne Cox 19, Rawinia Connors 21
Men: Brian Elliott 14 c/b, Rodney Mence 14, Richard Smith 15
Raffle: Gerald Connors

Golf results

Whanganui Golf Club 9 Hole
19/3/24 – Stableford: S Mangan (19) on countback S Wilson (19)
2/4/24 LGU: S Mangan (net 31) on countback S Kosmala (net 31) K Bukholt (net 32)
9/4/24 – Stableford: K. Bukholt (18) on countback S Mangan (18)

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Tech events set to improve efficiency for local business

Making sure local business practices are Lean, Smart and digitally adept is the aim of a series of unique events and opportunities soon to be delivered in Whanganui.

The programmes will enable businesses to improve their efficiency and productivity by helping them become familiar with and adapt new technologies and proven operational models to their existing practices.

Whanganui & Partners is facilitating the events, which consist of a Lean Group Workshop, a Digital Manufacturing Challenge, Smart Factory Showcase, and Mobile Showcase from Industry 4.0, and two co-funded Smart Industry Readiness

Index (SIRI) assessment opportunities.

Whanganui & Partners has worked with Callaghan Innovation, the government's innovation agency, and Auckland University of Technology to bring the Lean Workshop to Whanganui.

Tim Easton, Strategic Lead for Business, said the workshop had previously been held in Palmerston North but Whanganui & Partners wanted to make the workshop more accessible for local businesses.

The workshop will help businesses minimise waste, maximise efficiency and make continual improvements to processes.

Primarily aimed at manufacturing businesses,

the workshop will be suitable for staff at all levels throughout an organisation and can connect businesses to Callaghan's Lean grants, which offer 40 per cent co-funding towards the implementation of Lean practices in local businesses, Easton said. The price for the Lean Workshop is \$200+gst per person.

Whanganui & Partners has also worked with Callaghan to deliver three free innovation events in Whanganui, under its Industry 4.0 programme. These will include a Digital Manufacturing Challenge on April 23, a Smart Factory Showcase on May 2, and an Industry 4.0 Mobile Showcase on April 16.



The three events will be held at The Backhouse on

Taupō Quay. Easton said the Digital Manufacturing Challenge would provide a hands-on experience with varying levels of new technology.

The Smart Factory Showcase will take attendees on a virtual tour of Nautech, a leading electronic design manufacturer based in Auckland. Nautech has integrated Industry 4.0 systems and technology across its highly productive factory

processes.

The Showcase is an interactive event that allows attendees to learn and imagine what is possible with available technologies.

Rounding out the offerings, Whanganui & Partners are providing two co-funded SIRI assessments for local manufacturing businesses through LMAC (Leading Manufacturing Accelerating Change).

"If you're ready to consider Industry 4.0 applications in your business, a SIRI assessment is a great first step to help you maximise your investment and ensure you're focussing on the right areas," Easton said.

Easton encouraged business owners interested in, to get in touch with Whanganui & Partners or go to discoverwhanganui.nz/tech-for-business to register.

Lorraine Tapa's Art Exhibition



Lorraine Tapa is having an exhibition of her art at the Tupoho Centre at 249 Victoria Ave, in the old Education Board building. Under the theme of No Te Iwi Tonu or grass roots, all her paintings have Māori motifs and are accompanied by a proverb or Whakatauki or proverb. As she says, "I am inspired by kōrero." One example is 'children today, leaders tomorrow.'

Lorraine grew up in Parikino, later coming into Whanganui for secondary school. Initially she tried weaving, a skill she continues to use. But Lorraine explains, "I looked at the paintings of others and thought I should have a go."

She completed a life drawing course but decided "it was not for me." Once she retired, Lorraine had the opportunity and time to do painting. This is her first exhibition since when she did weaving and life drawing.

She uses a combination of materials, mainly canvases but also polystyrene, which she carves. One art piece has a mirror in the centre but as she points out, it is to illustrate the whakatauki: "Look after staff and they will look after you." It is a two-way process. The art is for sale under the name of Nanny Snow, her nickname.

There are also examples of her weaving. She has blue and white baskets using plastic strips, which she uses because it lasts longer.

Lorraine thanks the Tupoho Centre for allowing her the use of their space, and to those stores that display her posters. The exhibition is open from 12 noon till 3pm, Monday to Thursday, and will be ongoing.

Volunteer roles available at Hospice



Back row – Pat Goldfinch, Meg Bell, Heather Breach
Front row – Heather Knofflock and Noleen Tindale

As we head into the cooler months of the year, it's important to remember it can also be a lonely time of year and friendships combined with regular activity are a great way to avoid seasonal blues. These five women found the perfect solution by volunteering and between them have contributed over 27 years of support to Hospice Whanganui and the community.

The friends have built their close bond over several years and have been through many of life's experiences together. Heather B says it were these friends that kept her going when her husband died. Meg says 'We're more like sisters than just friends; we'll always be there to help each other through anything'. When Noleen had to finish volunteering for health reasons she was most concerned about losing contact with her friends, but four years later, their friendship circle is still going strong and they meet regularly for lunch and catch-ups, with the others keeping her up to date with news from

Hospice and the shop.

Volunteering can bring together people who are like-minded that might not have met otherwise. It's caring about the work of the organisation you're supporting and sharing social and community values that cements the friendships. The regular customers can become part of the social life at the shop too, getting to know their names and having a chat when they come in, it's a real community connection volunteering in the shops.

Meg says she chose to volunteer for Hospice after losing several friends to cancer, "It's a way to give back and something to do, but it's also about friendship and fun."

Hospice Whanganui has a variety of volunteer roles you can view here -<https://hospicewhanganui.org.nz/support-us/volunteer-opportunities/> or contact the Volunteer Coordinator, Kisu Hall, on 06 349 0080 or mikisuh@hospicewhanganui.org.nz. You can also call into the three Hospice Shops in Whanganui East, Victoria Avenue and Gonville.

Horizons Notes

A personal view with Cr David Cotton

It is fair to say that most of the work Horizons undertakes is outside the city's 50 km speed limit and I find sometimes it is hard to get urban people engaged in what we do and who pays.

Most, I think, understand that we are responsible for flood management especially given the media coverage over recent years regarding ANZAC Parade.

The transport service (Buses) is another area where urban people see Horizons regularly.

I wrote last month on the proposed increase into the funding of the Whanganui bus service: + \$1 Million over three years and another \$1.5 million for regional bus transport. To read the extra costs go to pages 18, 37 and 38 in the LTP document.

I personally believe this should be funded by a Uniform Annual Charge(UAGC).

Another major change in the proposed LTP is to change the use of the

UAGC from a maximum of 30 percent set by Government. Currently, it is 27 percent with the LTP moving this down to 16 percent. Why is this change important to you?

This change would have a lot more of our rates set as general rates, which is a rate based on the capital value of your property so anyone with a property with a higher-than-average value could see a significant increase on their rate bill.

The average property rate increase for our region is 12.9 % in the year 2024/25, 12.6% in the year 2025/26, and 9.2% in the year 2026/27. But change in the use of UAGC could see some property rate increase by well over 20 percent, plus farmers in Ruapehu are looking at over 40 percent rate increase with the combination of this change and the updated RV in their area.

To see your own property, go to the rate calculator on the Horizons website <https://www.horizons.govt.nz/property-rates/rates-search> and enter your address.



More information on this can be found in Horizons Long-term Plan consultation material, which is available at <https://haveyoursay.horizons.govt.nz/2024-34LTP> consultation or call into the Horizons office to pick up a hard copy of the LTP.

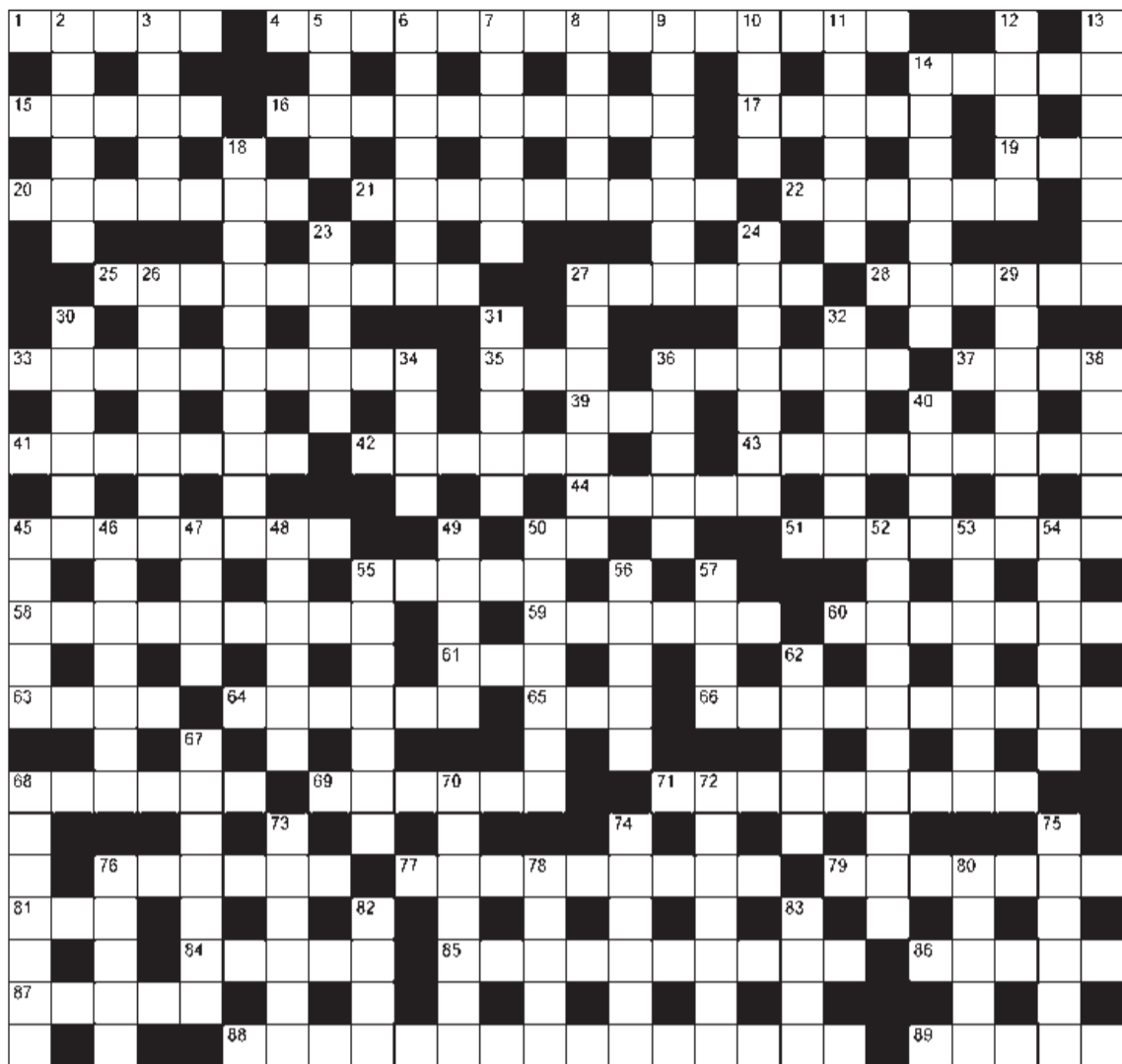
We do want your input for feedback – email haveyoursay@horizons.govt.nz. Remember I am here to represent you; contact me at any time. I'm working hard to ensure we have an affordable place to live, work and play.

- Cr David Cotton
Mobile 027 442 5920
email: david@tasmantrust.co.nz



Jumbo crossword

- ACROSS**
- 1 Invited (5)
 - 4 Disclaim responsibility for (4,4,5,2)
 - 14 Range (5)
 - 15 Quarrel (5)
 - 16 Local dialect (10)
 - 17 Capture (5)
 - 19 Fitting (3)
 - 20 Charged cell (7)
 - 21 Fatigue (9)
 - 22 Round black hat (6)
 - 25 Udometer (4,5)
 - 27 Light gas (6)
 - 28 Car, in rhyming slang (3,3)
 - 33 Added note (10)
 - 35 Track circuit (3)
 - 36 Conviction (6)
 - 37 Wound crust (4)
 - 39 Sheltered side (3)
 - 41 Tool (7)
 - 42 Rebound (6)
 - 43 Befuddle, confound (9)
 - 44 With cunning (5)
 - 45 First showing (8)
 - 50 Exists (2)
 - 51 Star-shaped character (8)
 - 55 Scum (5)
 - 58 A lean trio (anag)(9)
 - 59 Counterbalance (6)
 - 60 Complicated, intricate (7)
 - 61 Hair cream (3)
 - 63 Cooking fat (4)
 - 64 Razes (6)
 - 65 Chopping tool (3)
 - 66 Knows by sight (10)
- DOWN**
- 2 Small river (6)
 - 3 Burst out (5)
 - 5 High playing cards (4)
 - 6 Suspended (7)
 - 7 Silver-white metal (6)
 - 8 Hairdressing establishment (5)
 - 9 Spray can (7)
 - 10 Dotted cubes (4)
 - 11 Choice (6)
 - 12 Of the sun (5)
 - 13 Trestle (anag)(7)
 - 14 Varnish ingredient (7)
 - 18 Copy out by hand (10)
 - 23 Craze (5)
 - 24 Sleep song (7)
 - 26 Word of opposite meaning (7)
- ACROSS**
- 27 Unlucky (7)
 - 29 Bathtub with water jets (7)
 - 30 Notepad (6)
 - 31 Not sharp (5)
 - 32 Skin (6)
 - 34 Sound horn (4)
 - 36 Precious stone (5)
 - 38 Dismal (5)
 - 40 Wearisome talker (4)
 - 45 Danger (5)
 - 46 Hold spellbound (7)
 - 47 Press (4)
 - 48 Library user (6)
 - 49 Forceps (5)
 - 50 Set apart (7)
 - 52 Considerate (10)
 - 53 Copy (7)
 - 54 Scandinavian country (6)
 - 55 Struck out (7)
 - 56 Bid (5)
 - 57 Equipment (4)
 - 62 Water body (5)
 - 67 Origin (7)
 - 68 Shield (7)
 - 70 Stalemate (7)
 - 72 Distinguished musician (7)
 - 73 Ventilation grating (6)
 - 74 Light porous volcanic rock (6)
 - 75 Remote territory (6)
 - 76 Smell (5)
 - 78 Fewest (5)
 - 80 Passenger ship (5)
 - 82 Asian desert (4)
 - 83 Etching liquid (4)



Whanganui



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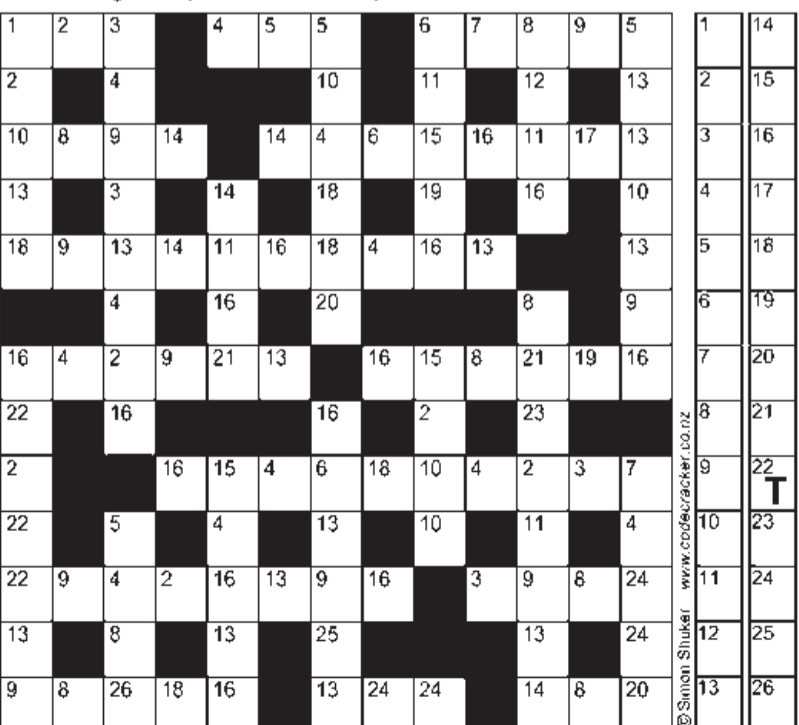
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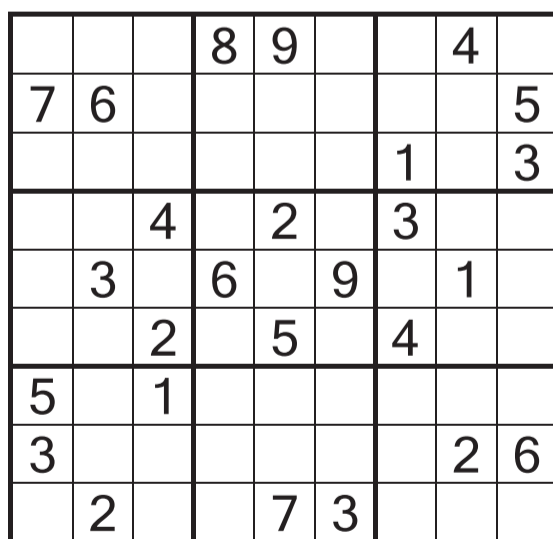
SIMON SHUKER'S CODE-CRACKER Extra 804

EACH number in our Code-Cracker grid represents a different letter of the alphabet. For example, today 22 represents T, so fill in T every time the figure 22 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. www.codecracker.co.nz



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

Sudoku



HARD

Previous solution

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

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

Previous solution

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

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

Previous crossword solution

ACROSS: 1 Curious, 4 Get-up-and-go, 9 Malaise, 13 Easy, 14 Tartan, 15 Nettle, 16 Savoury, 18 Yes, 20 Private eye, 21 Irrigate, 22 Girth, 25 Update, 26 Intone, 28 Just right, 33 Reversal, 34 Perish, 35 Wanting, 39 Frighten, 40 Sprout, 41 Rout, 42 Cater, 43 Scrap, 46 Tie up loose ends, 53 Melee, 56 Trait, 57 Acne, 58 Dashed, 59 Playmate, 62 Nominee, 63 Defect, 64 Acrimony, 67 Ostracism, 69 Svelte, 70 Cajole, 74 Ratio, 75 Complete, 77 Fall asleep, 81 Pen, 83 Balloon, 84 Robust, 85 Adroit, 86 Bass, 87 Destiny, 88 Well-heeled, 89 Girders.
DOWN: 1 Cheap, 2 Rescinds, 3 Scaled, 4 Get by, 5 Tiny, 6 Pensive, 7 Nature, 8 Gulag, 10 Ajar, 11 Abolish, 12 Strata, 17 Battleship, 19 State, 23 Lollipop, 24 Rival, 25 Uplifts, 27 Nose, 29 Upsurge, 30 Reject, 31 Writes, 32 Sneeze, 34 Photo, 36 Trace, 37 Pier, 38 Fund, 44 Cordon, 45 Alibi, 47 Itch, 48 Useless, 49 Ledger, 50 Onset, 51 Elevated, 52 Solemn, 53 Mayonnaise, 54 Lead, 55 Eyesore, 60 Weird, 61 Writ, 65 Scoop, 66 Tolerate, 68 Skillet, 69 Sceptre, 71 Facade, 72 Sequel, 73 Flying, 76 Prone, 78 Acid, 79 Poses, 80 Join, 82 Nail.

5x5

T	A	H		
	E	I		
S		O	E	
	A		E	
S	A		S	

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

S	P	A	S	M
C	E	L	L	O
A	D	I	E	U
R	A	V	E	N
S	L	E	P	T

Previous solution



WHAT'S ON

IN THE COMMUNITY

About Poetry

Meets third Tuesday of month, Club Metro, Ridgway Street. 2pm to 3.30pm. Informal, friendly meetings, visitors welcome. Recite yours or a favourite poem. A monthly topic is optional. Enquiries Robert Taylor, the bugleeditor150sc@gmail.com

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) Thursday, Quaker Meeting House, 256 Wicksteed St, 7.30pm. Friday, Gonville Library meeting room, 12.30pm. Ph 0508 425 266.

Art Exhibition

Whanganui Community Arts Centre, 19 Taupō Quay. Artist, Thomas Mc-Neight. Monday 8th April till Sunday 20th April.

Art Exhibition - Te Iwi Tonu

Māori designs and features Māori proverbs. All art for sale. Venue: 249 Victoria Ave., Tupoho Iwi Community Social Services. Hours: 12pm - 3pm, Monday - Thursday. Artist: Nanny Snow.

ESOL Home Tutors

Are you interested in other cultures and helping new migrants and are you keen to teach English as a volunteer tutor? English Language Partners Whanganui is running a free volunteer ESOL Home Tutor Training course on Monday and Wednesday afternoons, beginning on Wednesday 15th May from 1.00pm to 4.00pm and running until 12th June. Text Jane for details on 027-257-7776 or email whanganui@englishlanguage.org.nz

Free and Easy computing at UCOL

This free course covers all the Microsoft topics, Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Publisher and Access. The course is on a Monday and Tuesday, 9.00am to 11.00am and 5.00pm to 7.00pm, both days. Add computing to your CV. Telephone 06-965-3800 or visit the campus.

Poultry Club

meets Saturday 13th April. Mathieson Street Hall. 12pm start. Outside if fine, otherwise inside. All sorts of poultry for sale: hens, roosters, bantams, ducks, quail. Plants and produce table. Cuppa and discussion at the end. All welcome, including beginners. \$2 entry fee adults, children free. Enquiries ph. 345-8718

Theosophy Whanganui

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

Twinkle Toes at St Paul's

Fridays from 10.00am to 11.00am at St Paul's in The City Hall, Cooks Street. Car park building and lift access. A fun music time for pre schoolers. Gold coin donation.

St John Book Sale

April 11th, 12th, 13th 10am - 4pm @25 Tawa St. Novels, Hobbies, Music, Jigsaws and much more.

Wanganui Country Club Inc.

invite you to join us this Sunday 14th April, for a relaxed afternoon concert from 1pm to 4.30pm. Fantastic live band, raffles, and a yummy afternoon tea. We meet 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month and will be happy to have you enjoy the afternoon with us. See you at the St Andrews Pipe Band Hall, 1 E Bell St. Contact Terri 021-420-069 or Dave 021-061-7282.

Whanganui Film Society

Monday 15 April 7pm: Happening (Audrey Diwan | France | 2021 | R16) Taking out Best Film 2021 Venice International Film Festival, this powerful and timely abortion drama is based on a novel by Nobel Prizewinning author, Annie Ernaux. Davis Theatre, Watt St. Members only. Join at nzfilmsociety.org.nz/whanganui/html

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 Notices

What's On in the Community notices are \$10 for up to 50 words. Contact River City Press, 52 Ingestre St, by Tuesday 1pm to place your advertisement.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

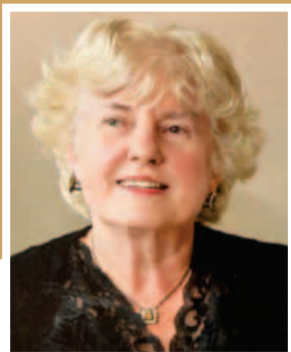
Toowoomba trip

Dear Editor

I was interested to read in the Whanganui Chronicle on the 1st of April that Mayor Andrew Trip and Councillor Brown are going to Toowoomba city in Australia on a sister city relationship visit at an approximate cost of \$2500 per person. I am not opposed to the concept but wonder what practical benefits this will bring to Whanganui. I will wait and see. My main concern, however, is in the same article, there is a delegation led by economic development agency Whanganui & Partners who will be visiting Toowoomba on a study tour (of what) and then onto a conference in Brisbane (on what) and at what cost? It's ironic that whilst they are all tripping over to Australia, we are left tripping over on our footpaths in Whanganui.

- Kevin Smith

THANK YOU



We wish to thank the many wonderful people who offered comfort and support to us during our recent loss of

Jean Harrison

The kindness has been truly overwhelming and will always be remembered.

Thank You

Keith Harrison, Wendy & John Robinson, Debbie & Blair Jarrett and families.

OBITUARY: John Belliss

Whanganui lost a versatile and capable sportsman with the passing of John Belliss on March 20.

John Gifford Belliss, aged 77, was a member of a notable sporting family. Survived by his wife, Dot, and sons Roger and Paul, John came from rich rugby stock.

He was a grandson of the renowned All Black Moke Belliss, the son of another rugged and durable rugby player in Jack Belliss, and he kept the name of his famous club, Kaierau, to the fore as a long serving tight forward.

John Belliss captained successful Kaierau sides and coached premier Kaierau and Pirates teams.

Peter Head played for Kaierau teams captained by John and said John had been a very good and well respected leader. John had captained the Kaierau team which toured California and Nevada in 1976.

In his working life, John had a long career as a fitter in the Railways, employed at Whanganui and Greymouth, before working at Imlay before his retirement.

John was close to his younger brother, Peter, and they locked the Kaierau scrum in their younger days and were formidable on the bowling greens as older men.

John and Peter Belliss and Brendon Kenny won the Aramoho club triples seven weeks before John passed. Peter said John had been determined to play, despite health problems. Aramoho Bowling Club president Sean Johnson told the RCP John had been a competent, competitive bowler who had been a gentleman, whether winning or losing.

Having joined the club in 1991, John had won 18 club titles and eight Whanganui centre titles, including fours last season. He won a national junior intercentre title with Whanganui in 1993 and was part of an Aramoho Division 2 team that won a national interclub title at Auckland in 2016.

John also made an impact at national level with the Aramoho Rowing Club. He was a member of a four which won a senior title.

Peter Belliss recalled that John's No. 2 four beat the



John Belliss

club's No. 1 four in the final. He said those fours, as an eight, had taken their beds to the boat club before the championships and had lived at the clubrooms. That had enabled early starts on the water and rowing at nights.

John had been invited to attend trials for New Zealand crews, but had declined to do so.

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Recent Bereavements

Sadly passed away recently...

Peter McWilliam CAMERON,
on 9 April 2024, aged 88 years.

Sheila KINGDOM,
on 17 March 2024.

Kevin Hugh ROSE,
aged 71 years.

Christine Joyce (Chrissy) SYMES,
on 5 April 2024, aged 63 years.

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REVIEW: A Showcase of Dance

A Showcase of Dance by Shirley McDouall School of Dance, Royal Whanganui Opera House: April 6 & 7

Review: Doug Davidson
I attended the 'A Showcase of Dance' by students of the Shirley McDouall School of Dance, choreographed by Principal Melissa Tate and Senior Teacher Olivia Reuters-Seeger, on Sunday, and I was surprised to note (perhaps I shouldn't have been) that the Opera House was close to full.

The opening was impressive. It was the Capulet Ball for Romeo and Juliet. The backdrop was suitably majestic, the rich red costumes suggested wealth and the dancers were appropriately formal. The way Romeo and Juliet were tapped on the shoulder and led away when they were showing too much attraction to each other made you fast-forward in your mind to the tragic ending.

Following the equally beautiful Dance of the Lotus, the Showcase changed gears to 'Bed-time Rhythm Riot' where three tap dancers crawl out of bed or from under the bed (literally) and tap dance away before a voice calls out 'Get back into bed.'

The Wizard of Oz was a crowd pleaser with the colourful munchins and the full crew of the main characters, and the recognizable tunes such as The Yellow Brick Road. The dramatic entry of the witch was a highlight.

Then it changed again to a beautiful performance from Giselle by McKenzie Tate, a former graduate from the school, and also from the New Zealand Youth City Ballet School.

The programme for the second half was similar with a highlight of 'Decades in Motion' where dancers performed to the hits of earlier decades, although the concluding performance of Beatrix Potter with all the animals was very appealing.

There were very few hitches, at least to my untrained eye, and even the very young dancers (the youngest was two), were too cute to be critical.

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Congratulations to all the helpers. It was an enjoyable showcase of 150 plus dancers, and dance.

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(Term Time Only)

I am looking for a person to work two days a week (Thursday & Friday) in our Deans' House. This is a shared position with the current employee working three days a week (Monday to Wednesday).

My key expectations:

- Energy and initiative.
- Culturally responsive and relational in all situations.
- A genuine enthusiasm and interest in working closely with many teenagers, staff members and whānau.
- The proven ability to have initial calm conversations with students arriving in the Deans' House from classes, and the clear reiteration of our school LIFE values: Learning, Integrity, Fellowship, Excellence.
- The ability to provide some administrative support to our eight House Deans (Awa, Maunga, Moana, Whenua Houses); Kaiāwhina; Academic Dean; PB4L (Positive Behaviour for Learning) Co-ordinator when they are timetabled into the Deans' House when not teaching.
- Responsibility for supplying correct school uniform items to students wearing non-regulation items of clothing.
- Reporting directly to the Principal.

Please email your CV and covering letter to: principal@whs.ac.nz

Applications close
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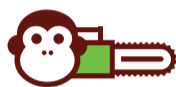


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The successful applicant will provide relief cover to various administration and teacher - aide roles as required.

Key requirements:

- Office administration skills, including knowledge of Word, Excel and Xero, cash handling experience, reprographics.
- Teacher-aide experience would also be useful to cover teacher-aide staff leave when required.

Police vetting will be required for this position.

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My key expectations of successful applicants::

- A caring and positive strengths-based approach in all interactions with students.
- A genuine enthusiasm and interest in working very closely with teenagers and teachers.
- A developed sense of cultural awareness and responsiveness in all situations.
- An appreciation and understanding of the importance of education and learning to personal excellence and growth.

Police vetting will be required for this position.

Please email your CV and covering letter to: principal@whs.ac.nz

Applications close
4pm Tuesday 23 April 2024

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GO Guyton Street

Guyton Street revitalisation will highlight the historic street's new look

The new Guyton Street streetscape will feature parklet areas on each block, built around the recently installed raised platforms. The parklets will include wooden planter boxes and seating made from recycled Whanganui port timber – as well as new cycle racks. The plantings will focus on hardy, native species that are well suited to the conditions on the street.

Deputy Mayor Helen Craig, who chairs the Town Centre Regeneration Committee, says she's delighted with the way the designs have

come together – and the subtle way the new features tie in with built heritage along the street.

“Throughout the Streets for People co-design sessions, the community voiced a desire to see new life breathed into this historic Whanganui street to make it a greener, more vibrant, and more inviting destination. I think this design achieves that in a way that is sympathetic to the surrounding heritage values and the needs of the local businesses along Guyton Street.”

Deputy Mayor Craig says she's also excited

by the diverse range of art that will soon adorn the street.

“Near the new parklet, vibrant artworks will be displayed in bespoke light boxes – acting as open air galleries showcasing local artists. The works will be refreshed with new works on an ongoing basis. What's more, designs by talented mana whenua artists from Te Rūnanga o Tupoho and Kaitoi o Tamaupoko will be displayed alongside heritage photography to transform the windows of untenanted shops into spaces for captivating visual storytelling.”



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GO Guyton Street

Community event planned to celebrate new streetscape

Guyton Street, between St Hill Street and Victoria Ave, will be closed from 12 noon to midnight on Saturday, 18 May, for a community event to celebrate the completion of the new streetscape for Guyton Street. This is part of the Streets for People project.

Expect to listen to live local music, for kids to enjoy some fun activities and for food trucks to be present.

Although the final day for completing the project is 31 May, the Council is confident that all the key elements of the new streetscape will be in place by the event date. They also point out that the whole project is a trial and adaptive in nature, so things may change to a degree following installation anyway, based on community/stakeholder feedback.

Corwen Park soon to grace Guyton St

Thanks to local real estate agent and property owner Richard White, the empty lot at 94 Guyton Street will soon become Corwen Park. Richard explains that "The name is a nod to the village in Wales where my ancestors hail from."

The idea to offer some of his land for use as a park came to him while participating in the Streets for People community co-design sessions. He later had discussions with the council and has negotiated a five year lease, for a nominal fee, for the land to be used as a community space. "I think this new park area will really enhance the street."

The Guyton Street revitalization project is 90% funded by Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency through its Streets for People programme.



Progress being made with Corwen Park, Guyton St

Who was the St named after?

Guyton Street was named after William Guyton, who first came to Wellington on 29 August 1840. He was part of a partnership set up in Liverpool in 1839 with three Ridgway brothers and George Earp. They were shipping owners and agents, land agents and merchants.

After setting up business in Wellington William sailed to Whanganui on 9 December, returning on 30 January, 1841. The purpose was to select sections for sale.

He didn't stay long in New Zealand, although he was appointed Mayor of Wellington in July, 1843 but the municipality was abolished later that year. Soon afterwards he returned to England and either returned via New Zealand or went directly to Australia in 1854.



Robyn Belton's homecoming exhibition.

The legendary "Greedy Cat" is on the walls!

Exhibition runs until 31 May



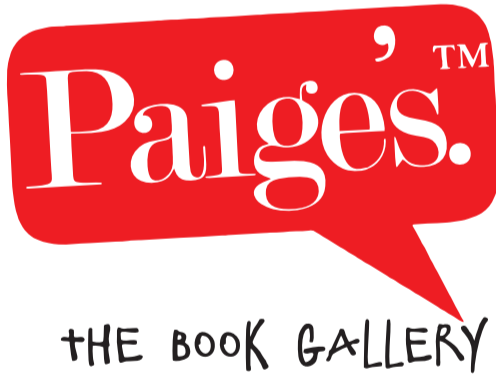
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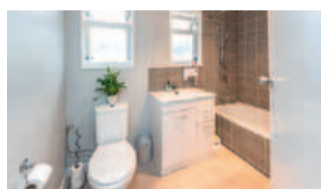
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3 1 2 1

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Auction 12.30pm, Thu 18th Apr, 2024, Property Brokers, 51 Taupo Quay, Whanganui
View Sun 14 Apr 1.45 - 2.15pm
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