



Charity celebrates birthday

By Frank Neill

Newlands charity Rourou Kai Ora (RKO) celebrated its first birthday on 6 October, marking an incredible first year of cooking, learning, volunteering and connecting with the community.

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Five teen chefs blowing out the candles on Rourou Kai Ora's first birthday cake. Photo: Supplied.

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Providing nutritious meals

Continued from page 1.

Based in the Newlands College kitchen, RKO provides nutritious, medically tailored meals to people living with health conditions where good nutrition can play an important role in supporting their wellbeing. The impact of the charity extends well beyond the meals leaving the kitchen each week.

At the heart of RKO is a group of local rangatahi who volunteer alongside experienced adults to prepare meals for members of their community.

Over the past year, the young volunteers have developed cooking skills, confidence and leadership while contributing more than 1,000 hours of their time.

In its first year RKO has grown from an idea into a thriving community organisation, delivering more than 2,500 meals to local people.

Co-founder Jenny Neill says reaching the first birthday is an opportunity to reflect not only on the numbers, but on the people behind them.

"When we started Rourou Kai Ora, we wanted to create something that genuinely helped people," Jenny says.

"A year later, seeing thousands of meals go out of the kitchen is amazing, but some of the moments we are proudest of are much smaller.

"It is seeing a young person become confident enough to take responsibility in the kitchen, hearing from someone who has enjoyed their meals during a really difficult period in their life, or seeing volunteers turn up week after week because they believe in what we are doing."

The charity brings together three groups – meal recipients (the participants), rangatahi



Three teen chefs preparing medically tailored meals. Photo: Supplied.

(the teen chefs) and adult volunteers, creating a model where everyone contributes to a stronger community.

For the young people involved, the kitchen provides a place to learn practical skills while experiencing what it means to serve others.

Teen volunteers can progress into leadership roles as their experience grows, taking increasing responsibility within the kitchen and supporting newer volunteers.

For meal recipients, RKO aims to provide something that is both practical and personal — nutritious food prepared specifically with health and wellbeing in mind, delivered by members of their own community.

None of the charity's first-year achievements would have been possible without the wider community behind it.

Local volunteers have cooked, packed and delivered meals; Newlands College has provided a home for the kitchen; funders and supporters have helped meet the cost of ingredients and equipment; and local people and organisations have backed the kaupapa in many different ways.

The first year has also demonstrated just how much need, and generosity, exists within the community.

"What has probably surprised us most is how many people want to help," Jenny says. "Whether it is a teenager giving up an afternoon, an adult delivering meals, someone donating, or an organisation asking what they can do, Rourou Kai Ora really has become something that belongs to the community."

As RKO enters its second year, the focus is on making sure the charity can continue to grow sustainably while retaining the relationships and sense of community that have defined its first year.

There are plans to continue developing opportunities for rangatahi, strengthen the volunteer team and build partnerships that will allow RKO to support more people over time.

"Thank you for the marvellous food and service. It's changed my life," one participant says.

"I feel so much better. Even the district nurse is commenting on how much healthier I am.

"Thanks to RKO for helping change my life with meals that really make a difference."

"I have established a solid food information base from the cuisine, and it's motivated me to cook more intelligently," another participant says.

"Keep doing what you're doing, you are making a huge difference to people's lives."

"The programme has made a difference for me physically, mentally and spiritually," a third participant says.

"Coming to RKO gives me a sense of achievement," one of the teen chefs says.

"I come, have a task, and complete it which feels good. I also know what I'm doing helps the community."

"I love volunteering for RKO," teen chef Laura says.

"There's such a strong sense of community in the kitchen, and it's incredibly rewarding to know we're making a real difference to people's lives."

"One of the things I have loved most is seeing the community that has formed around Rourou Kai Ora already," one of RKO's founders Luke Wilson says.

"Our volunteers, donors and the many local organisations that have supported us have all contributed something different, but everyone's working towards the same goal of a community that supports people with medically-tailored kai when they need it most.

"I've been fortunate to spend several shifts alongside our Teen Chefs.

"Their enthusiasm and commitment are extraordinary, but there's also so much joy in the kitchen.

"It's a genuinely fun space where our rangatahi work hard, learn from one another and grow together.

"As a doctor, Rourou Kai Ora gives me something for my patients that I've never had before.

"We know that changing what we eat is a powerful treatment, but information alone isn't enough — especially when someone's also facing financial, practical or health barriers.

"I can now hand a patient an RKO brochure and offer them something real that I know is going to be immensely helpful.

"If they choose to participate, even for a short period during a health challenge, we're changing the food environment around them.

"Instead of simply telling people what might help, we're making nourishing food available and giving them the opportunity to experience for themselves how powerful dietary change can be.

"It feels like a prescription every clinician should have available.

"As we enter our second year, I'm excited to keep strengthening our relationships with participants, volunteers and the wider community, and for more healthcare professionals to become aware of Rourou Kai Ora and offer it to their patients too," Luke says.



Greg O'Connor
MP for Ōhāriu

This will be my last column as the Ōhāriu MP, as on 22 October, I will be sworn in as a local Councillor to replace the very hard working and competent Tony Randle who died in August.

The good thing about my new role is that I will be continuing my relationship with largely the same folk, albeit in a very different role which I look forward to getting to understand. Importantly, I remain the local MP until 7 November when the three MPs whose electorates will then cover the old Ōhāriu, take over.

As my electorate support officer reminds me, we still

have constituents with the need for MP services, and she continues to line up meetings for me in the office which will remain open until the election.

I can't finish without thanking you the locals for electing me three times and giving me the opportunity to be what will end up being the last Ōhāriu voice in Parliament.

It's a great area, populated by people keen to do their best for their families and the city, and I'm just pleased to have had the opportunity to continue to serve the area and Wellington.

You can contact my office on **04 478 3332** or email

Greg.OConnor@parliament.govt.nz.

New City Councillor

By Frank Neill

Ōhāriu MP Greg O'Connor is the new Wellington City Councillor representing the Takapū/Northern Ward.

He was elected unopposed to fill the vacancy created with the passing of Cr Tony Randle.

To fill the vacancy, Wellington City Council called for nominations with the aim of holding a by-election for the seat.

However a by-election is now not needed, as only one nomination was received when nominations closed at noon on 1 October.

Mr O'Connor, who stood as an independent, will be sworn in as a City Councillor at Te Kaunihera o Pōneke Council meeting at 9.30am on Thursday 22 October.

"It was a bit of a surprise to everybody that there was no other nominee," Mr O'Connor says.

"Because of that it means my appointment was immediate."

That has led to Mr O'Connor having to change his plans, as he now has to fit in being a new Councillor to his continuing



Greg O'Connor. Photo: Frank Neill.

role as Ōhāriu's MP.

"I have still got a lot of electorate work to keep doing. There are still appointments

with people who need help.

"Until we get a new MP in the electorate after the 7th of November I will still be servicing these people as well."

Mr O'Connor is, he says, "looking forward to getting into the business of being a Councillor."

In that role, he says he will be serving not only the people of the Takapū/Northern Ward, but the whole city.

"It's about Wellington," he says.

"For the individual wards to thrive, Wellington needs to thrive.

"We have got to be our best advocates to make sure this place not only survives but thrives," he says.

His announcement that he was standing for a seat on the Council received a "very welcoming response, a very positive response from across the political spectrum," he adds.

In the new role, he has a lot to learn.

"I know coming from Parliament it doesn't matter what you think you know, it is very different once you are in the role.

"Nothing is ever what it looks like from the outside," he says.

Consultation on rating structure

Wellingtonians can have their say from later this month about whether there is a better way to structure and divide rates across Wellington properties.

This follows today's approval by Wellington City Council's Te Taurapa Council Planning and Finance Committee of consultation materials for the Rating Policies Review.

Five proposals will be put forward for public feedback. They are:

- changing to land value rather than capital value as the rating base;
- changing the general rates differential for businesses;
- extending the vacant land differential area;

- a commercial differential for Tiaki Wai; and
- Rates remissions for earthquake prone buildings.

"These proposals are not about how much we collect in rates, but how we set the rates – or how we divide the pie rather than increasing the pie," the Chair of the City Council's Te Taurapa Planning and Finance Committee, Cr Diane Calvert, says.

"We need to consider the impacts of our current rating system and look at whether there is a better and fairer way to distribute the costs across all ratepayers, business and residential.

"We are expecting a range of views, and we welcome feedback

from our community when the consultation opens on 19 October.

"This will help us shape the Council's final decisions."

Mayor Andrew Little says it is really important for Wellingtonians to have their say about the rating policy because it affects the way council sets rates across the city's residents and businesses.

"Rates are the biggest source of Council's revenue to pay for the community services and facilities that we love and need.

"The Local Government Act allows us to explore these options, and Council's Triennium Plan requires us to consider

ways to reduce costs, increase revenue and deliver best value for the city, so it's crucial that we have this conversation with Wellingtonians."

Consultation on the Rating Policies Review will take place from 19 October to 15 November.

Wellingtonians can learn more and have their say with a dedicated web hub, via an oral submission, and printed materials in Council venues.

Elected members will consider community feedback in December and, at that meeting, vote whether all, some, or none of the five proposals are included in the 2027–37 Long-term Plan public consultation, happening in April 2027.

inbriefnews

Fill the bucket

SPCA is looking for volunteers to give two hours of their time to support its nationwide fundraising appeal 'Fill the Bucket'.

SPCA's national street appeal takes place on October 30 and 31.

"We really need volunteers to make the appeal happen," says SPCA Events and Partnerships Manager, Elinor Birch.

"It's just two hours of time that can make a meaningful impact.

"Fill the Bucket is about communities coming together to support our sick, injured and abandoned animals in need.

"Whether you're able to donate, volunteer for a couple of hours, or help coordinate collections in your area, every contribution helps us to care of the thousands of animals who come through our doors each year."

People can sign up to volunteer at www.sPCA.nz/how-you-can-help/volunteer/fill-the-bucket-appeal.

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Authorised by Greg O'Connor MP,
Parliament Buildings Wellington.

Accidental artist at Toi Marsden

Iwen Yong, who describes herself as “the accidental artist” is one of the artists featured in the inaugural Toi Marsden – The Marsden Art Show in October.

Iwen’s route into painting began, unlikely as it sounds, in a meeting room.

“I stumbled into art by accident.

“I was working as an accountant, and while waiting for a meeting with a client I drew a picture of my dog, Gus, on the whiteboard.

“An older lady saw it and asked if I was keen to try oil painting and offered me some paints she had at home. So, I bought canvases and started experimenting.”

A chance encounter accelerated things.

“About a year later, I met painter John Crump while in Glenorchy. I went to his gallery and he said, ‘you’re good. Why don’t you come paint with me for a year?’ He took me under his wing and taught me all he could about oil painting.”

Five years ago Iwen held his first exhibition, sold 22 paintings, and became a full-time artist.

Before that, he spent 15 years as a chartered accountant, having studied commercial law and accounting after schooling in the Hutt Valley and university in Wellington.

Asked what inspired him to exhibit at Toi Marsden, Iwen said: “It’s a really good cause, and a good way to be involved in the art community.

“A lot of the time people give donations to schools or charities and don’t really get anything in return.

“This is a great way to incentivise people to support the school while also taking home a special piece of art from an NZ artist.”

There’s a personal thread too.

“I like to give back to a community I’m part of,” he says.

“I went to school in the Hutt and university in Wellington. And it’s neat to see artists coming together from all over New Zealand, and such an eclectic mix, so many different styles, backgrounds and mediums.

“It’s a great way to showcase the talent we have here in Aotearoa.”

Asked what excites him most about the exhibition, Iwen said: “Having my work showcased alongside other great New Zealand artists.

“I also grew up in the Wellington region, so it’s good to have people who know me come along and see the show.

“I’ll get a group together, and it’s nice

to give back to the region where I did my schooling. It’s exciting – so many different artists, and good networking and publicity for the work,” he said.

In terms of the works he will exhibit, “I’ve confirmed I’ll bring a Wellington coastal scene, but the rest I’m still deciding on.

“A lot of my work has a real Kiwi flavour. It tries to capture what it’s like to be in the New Zealand landscape, and people say it reminds them of growing up, of being outdoors here.”

The sea is a recurring subject for him.

“It’s such a big part of Wellington, that rugged coast. Every Wellingtonian has experienced that cold, blustery weather around the coast. It reminds people of being in Welly.”

“I’m a spontaneous painter. I generally paint in one session if the work isn’t too big.

“I describe my paintings as expressive realism. The paintwork and brushwork are expressive and loose, because I think that gives the work vitality and a sense of movement.

“My approach is very intuitive. I go with my gut, and I don’t like to labour over paintings.

“It looks like I’m having a lot of fun, and I think people can feel that when they look at the work, even though I’m concentrating hard.”

When asked his advice for emerging artists Iwen said: “I still consider myself emerging.

“I’ve only been full-time for five years. I’d say: ‘believe in your own style’.

“With social media, you’ve got so many influences. And when you’re starting out, you can see a million different styles and types.

“The danger is trying to emulate someone else, being someone you’re not. Your voice and your style will come with practice.

“The more you paint, experiment and put the hard yards in, your voice will come from within. Believe in yourself, your style, and your own voice,” Iwen said.

The Toi Marsden exhibition will be open at Samuel Marsden Collegiate School in Karori from 10am to 4pm on Saturday 31 October and from 10am to 2pm on Sunday 1 November, with a koha entry supporting Dwell Housing Trust.

For more information visit www.marsden-artshow.co.nz.



Iwen Yong’s painting of the road to Mt Cook.



Toi Marsden logo.

Three local NZCT grants

By Frank Neill

Three organisations that operate in the ‘Independent Herald’ circulation area were recipients of grants in the latest round of the New Zealand Community Trust’s disbursements.

Kelburn Municipal Croquet Club was granted \$9,469.50 for equipment.

The Makara Model School Board was

granted \$10,000 for pool lining and installation.

The Wellington Girls’ College Board was granted \$2,000 for equipment.

The trust disbursed \$1,099,345.35 in the latest round of funding, announced on 1 October.

Seventeen gaming venues in the greater Wellington region contributed to the grants.

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Have a go at Croquet



Players enjoying a game at the Khandallah Croquet Club. Photo: Supplied.

By Frank Neill

The Khandallah Croquet Club is running an open day on Saturday 17 October, starting at 2pm.

The open day gives people an opportunity try their hand at playing what is a popular game.

No equipment is needed, although people will need to wear flat soled shoes.

The club is located at 18 Woodmancote Road, next to the Khandallah Bowling and Pentanque Clubs.

The club welcomes new members, and people interested in finding out more can views the club’s contacts at www.sporty.co.nz/khandallahcroquet/Contacts.

Coaching, regular play and opportunities to develop and compete are available.

The club has a single Croquet lawn where Golf Croquet is played.

The club is unique as it is the only one in Wellington that owns its lawns and the rustic 1930s clubhouse.

Its playing season runs from September to April or May.

Charges laid over Moa Point discharges

Greater Wellington Regional Council has filed charges against Tiaki Wai and Wellington City Council following its investigation into alleged unlawful wastewater discharges from the Moa Point Wastewater Treatment Plant.

The charges relate to two periods of alleged offending: wastewater discharges that occurred during an upgrade of the plant’s ultraviolet treatment system between October 2025 and January 2026; and the failure of the treatment plant in early February 2026 and the ongoing discharges connected to that failure.

Greater Wellington’s Director Strategy, Policy and Regulation Dr Fathima Iftikar says the decision to prosecute follows a detailed investigation into the events, the roles of the parties involved and the environmental consequences.

“As an independent regulator, Greater Wellington is responsible for enforcing compliance with the Resource Management Act (RMA), including compliance with resource consents and the regional plan,” Dr Iftikar says.

“Where there is evidence of non-compliance, we have a responsibility to consider it and take appropriate action.”

At this stage, Tiaki Wai and Wellington City Council each face 10 charges.

These comprise five charges relating to alleged unlawful discharges from the plant and five relating to alleged breaches of an abatement notice.

Under the RMA as amended in September 2025, if convicted Tiaki Wai and Wellington City Council each face a

maximum fine of \$10 million per charge.

The decision to impose a fine and the level of that fine is made by the Court.

“Taking enforcement action against public organisations is a serious decision, and not one we take lightly,” Dr Iftikar says.

“Greater Wellington’s responsibility as the environmental regulator is to make those decisions independently, based on the evidence and the law.

“No matter how important the service, or who owns or operates it, the obligation to comply with environmental law remains the same.”

Dr Iftikar says the prosecution marks an important point in Greater Wellington’s response to the plant’s failure, but not the end of its responsibility to Wellington’s south coast.

“Operational improvements and work to restore the treatment plant are continuing.

“Greater Wellington is separately considering if regulatory measures are needed to ensure the plant returns to full compliance with its resource consents.

“People should be able to trust that environmental rules protecting the coastal marine area will be upheld by both public and private entities.

“Our role is to protect that trust by following the evidence, applying the law fairly, and holding those responsible to account where the evidence supports it,” Dr Iftikar says.

As the prosecution is now before the Court, Greater Wellington cannot comment further.

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International award nomination for Karori siblings

By Frank Neill

Karori siblings Jayathi and Jayath Jaiganesh have been named as 2026 International Children's Peace Prize nominees by KidsRights. They have been selected in recognition of their work with 'Bella and Bio-Bot'.

Their peace prize nomination is in the Child Participation, Education and Climate Justice/Environment category.

Jayathi (16) and Jayath (14) began their journey when they released their new book 'Bella and the Bio-Bot' in July last year.

Their 'Bella and Bio-Bot' initiative has now grown into significantly more than just a book.

They have taken their ideas into schools and the community through hands-on STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) activities.

These activities encourage younger children to observe, question, investigate and create.

This helps children become active explorers rather than passive learners.

Their work has now reached more than 200 children in multiple schools.

In their work in schools they are showing that even complex problems become ap-

proachable when children are trusted to think for themselves.

Jayathi and Jayath recently took 'Bella and Bio-Bot' to MakerFest Tauranga, where they ran five STEM story adventure workshops and worked with more than 55 children over the weekend of 12 and 13 September.

Their book saw Jayathi and Jayath combine their passion for science, technology, engineering, art and maths with a drive to inspire young learners.

Through vibrant illustrations and a narrative filled with curiosity and problem-solving, the story encourages children to explore.

"Bella represents curiosity and courage," they say.

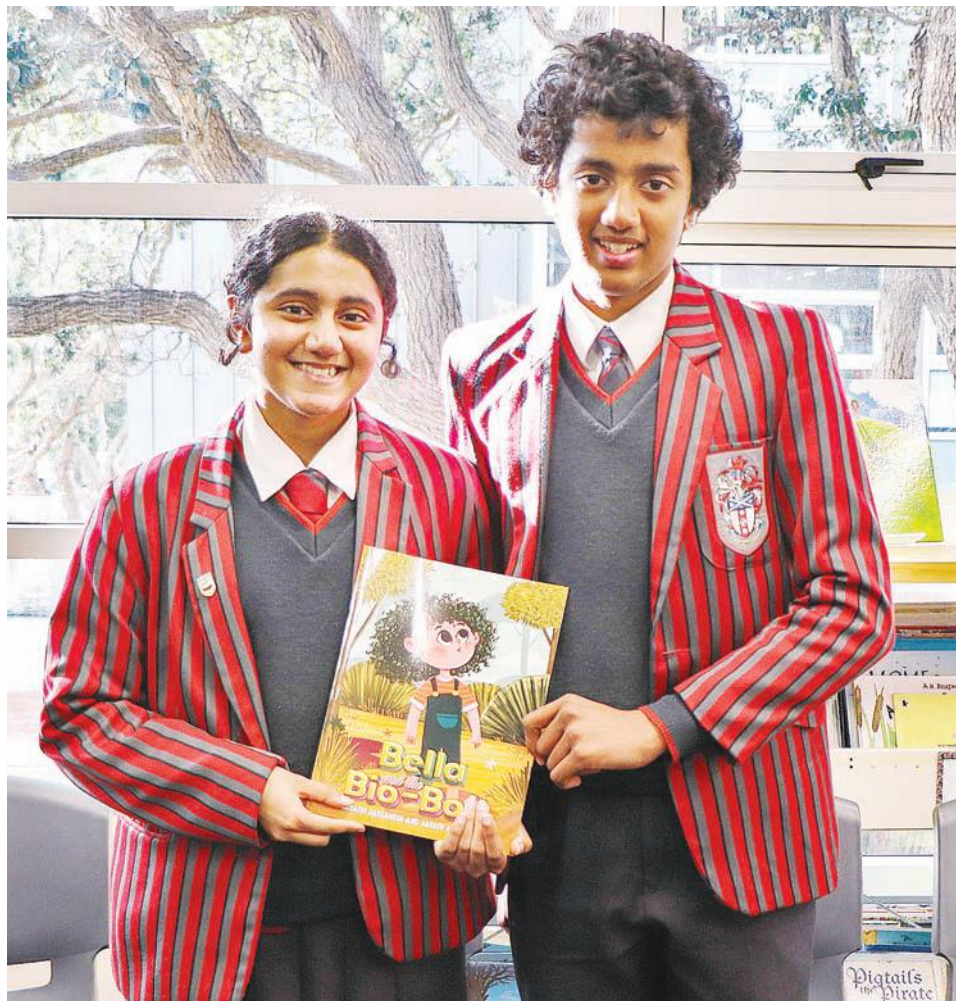
"She's someone who's not afraid to ask questions.

"The Bio-Bot was inspired by our shared love for technology and sustainability."

A young inventor, Bella and her companion Bio-Bot guide children through teamwork, environmental responsibility and problem-solving.

Their 'Bella and Bio-Bot' initiative was named as a finalist in this year's Wellington Airport Regional Community Awards.

It was named in the Wellington City section of the awards.



Jayathi and Jayath Jaiganesh with their book. Photo: Supplied.

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An advertisement for MYQS Consultants Ltd. It features a background image of a blue folder, a ruler, and a keychain. The text reads: "MYQS Supports Breast Cancer Awareness Month", "Ensure your build project is set to go!", "See us for:", "- Insurance Rebuild Options", "- Strengthening", "- Tender Preparations", "- Trade Schedules", "My QS Consultants Ltd", "www.myqsconsultants.nz", "QUANTITY SURVEYORS", "Ph: 04-568 6977", "55 Cuba Street, Petone, Lower Hutt".

An advertisement for needanerd, described as "your technology partner". It features a cartoon character with glasses. The text lists services: "The market leader in computer and technology support for home and small business", "Support at your business or home, over the phone, by email or remotely", "Highly trained technicians are professional, efficient and know their tech", "Computer sales, repair, maintenance and ongoing support made easy". It also mentions "Supports Breast Cancer Awareness Month" and provides contact information: "Book a Nerd online at www.needanerdwellington.co.nz or phone 04 212 6413".

An advertisement for Unichem and NZPost. It features a pink ribbon. The text reads: "Hope grows when we stand together.", "Your one-stop shop. Gift, wrap and Post!", "Open 7 days 122 Cuba Mall", "P: 384 6856 • F: 382 9180 E: info@cubamall.unichem.co.nz", "Mon- Fri 8am-6pm Sat 9-5 Sun and Public Holidays 10-5", "Unichem Your local health professionals", "NZPost".

An advertisement for Active Feet Podiatry. It features a drawing of a foot. The text reads: "Active Feet Podiatry", "Caring for your feet", "Supporting Breast Cancer Awareness Month", "Services We Offer Include:", "- Sports injuries", "- Family Foot Care", "- Verrucae", "- Skin and Nail problems", "- Orthotic Services", "Dr. Tim Halpine DPM", "Caring for your feet", "Ph: 04 473 8696", "Level 2, 85 The Terrace, Wellington 6011", "(opposite Solnet House and Aurora Terrace).", "Email: Tim.Halpine@xtra.co.nz", "www.activefeetpodiatry.com".



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Laylah (left) and Ameilia Flatt organising the children's and young person shelves at Re-read for Life. Photo: Supplied.

Re-read for Life a huge success

The three initial days of the pop up shop Re-read for Life have been a real success raising \$5,000 for the Cancer Society, the organisers Anne Jay and Rachel Middleton say.

Selling second hand books, Re-read for Life ran in the Johnsonville Shopping Centre on 26 and 29 September and 3 October.

"Many customers also donated nearly new books in great condition so the stock quality is still excellent," Anne and Rachel say.

"A pair of friends came in with books and one of them bought two of the books her friend had bought in.

"This kind of sums up the spirit of generosity that has surrounded this venture."

Other book donors popped up as word of the shop spread.

Lots of children's books were donated – by St Benedict's school for example.

"We are encouraging donations as we plan to hold the stock and hold future pop ups as venues become available," Anne and Rachel say.

"Future dates will be posted on the Re-Read for Life Facebook page.

"Photos of the books we held at the close of play on Saturday 3 October will also be on our Facebook page and we are happy to pack orders for collection on 17 October.

"We learned from a kerfuffle on Saturday morning, when four different people came in to buy the same book, that they had seen

on our page, that we need to formalise the process.

"The shopping centre has given us three more opportunities to use the unit.

"One is on 17 October. Then there are two in November, firstly the 8th which is a Sunday when the shopping centre is also hosting a vinyl fair and the second on the 28th which is also the Rotary Christmas Fair.

"We only put clean popular books on the shelf so the few donated books that fall below our standard but are judged to be too good to throw away are stored in the cardboard Koha corner so those on a tiny budget can still find a treasure.

"One of our customers found an 80's car repair manual and other supplies for his scrapbooking hobby.

"There has been a relaxed atmosphere as staff and customers share their love of reading, exchange book recommendations and often talk of how the Cancer Society has supported someone from their community.

"We have also boosted coffee, cake and sushi sales in the centre," Anne and Rachel say..

Re-read for Life is a fund-raiser for the Cancer Society's Relay for Life, hence the shop name Re-read for Life.

All administration costs are being met by Anne and Rachel so 100% of all proceeds are being donated to the Cancer Society.



Karori author Latika Vasil. Photo: Supplied.

New book by Karori author

By Frank Neill

Karori author Latika Vasil has released her latest book, a children's novel titled 'Ruby and the Land of Birds'.

The novel is set in Ōtari-Wilton's Bush and is an adventure fantasy novel about two school children who travel back in time to a prehistoric Ōtari.

Lonely and out of place at her new school, Ruby wishes life was different.

She gets her wish during a class trip to Ōtari-Wilton's Bush when her world is suddenly turned upside down.

Ruby and her classmate Jasper accidentally tumble through time, finding themselves in a wild, ancient forest where there are no people – only birds.

To get home, Ruby and Jasper must journey to a magic pool that will show them the way, but only on the night of a clear full moon.

Guided by a wise and sometimes cheeky kākā, Ruby and Jasper race across a landscape filled with dangers and mysterious forces desperate to stop them.

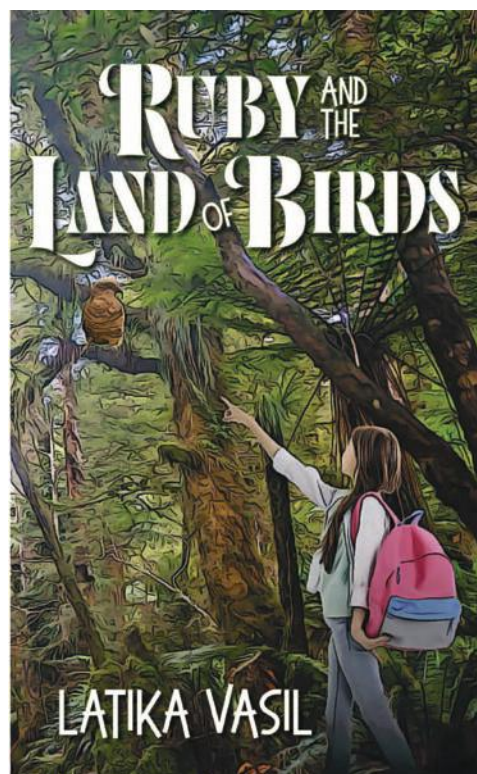
If they don't get to the pool, they might be trapped in the past forever.

'Ruby and the Land of Birds' is a journey into a magical world, where two lonely kids find the courage to survive – and also discover a bond that will tie them to the ancient forest forever.

The story has strong conservation themes and is a fictitious origin story that includes Moko, the famous 800-year-old rimu in Ōtari.

Latika is of Indian descent. She has an Advanced Diploma in Creative Writing from Whitireia Polytechnic and a PhD in Educational Psychology.

She has worked as a university lecturer,



The cover of 'Ruby and the Land of Birds'.

a researcher, a creative writing tutor and a freelance writer.

Her fiction has been broadcast on Radio New Zealand, and published in anthologies and magazines. Latika is the author of a young adults novel, 'The World I Found' (2023, Black Giraffe Press) and a collection of short stories, 'Rising to the Surface' (2013, Steele Roberts). 'Ruby and the Land of Birds' is currently available in local independent bookshops, including Marsden Books, Unity Books and The Children's Bookshop.



NEWS TIPS

Send your tips to
herald@wsn.co.nz



What's cool in the Wairarapa

Spot the birdlife and so much more at Pukaha these holidays

Just 30km north of Masterton on State Highway 2, Pūkaha National Wildlife Centre offers a wild escape into one of New Zealand's most inspiring conservation stories.

Spread across 942 hectares of unfenced native forest, Pūkaha is New Zealand's premier wildlife breeding sanctuary – and there's plenty here to keep visitors exploring. Broad, easy-grade bush tracks wind through the sanctuary, with picnic tables and peaceful views providing perfect spots to pause and soak up the surroundings.

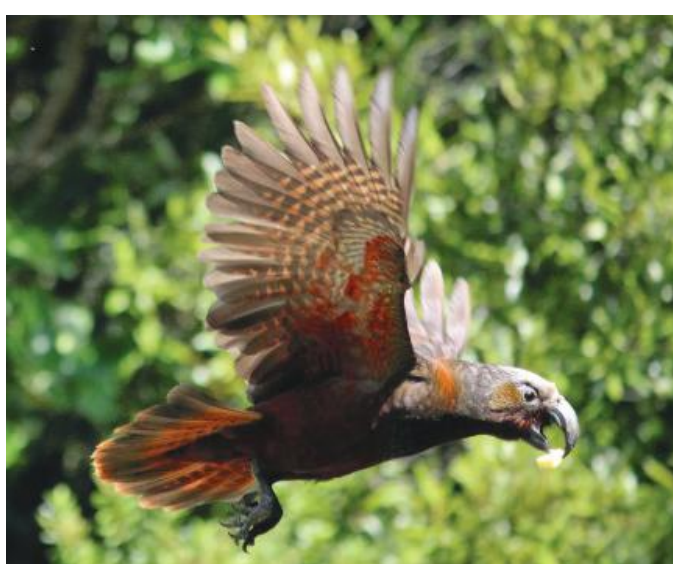
Keep an eye – and ear – out for the cheeky kākā. These colourful native parrots, with spectacular flashes of

orange and red plumage, can often be seen swooping around the café and bridges, bringing a lively energy to the bush.

For another close encounter, head to the eel pond and try your hand at feeding these fascinating freshwater residents.

But Pūkaha is about more than seeing wildlife. Discover the centre's vital conservation programme and find out how you can get involved and help protect Aotearoa's native species.

It's an ideal school holiday destination, but with wildlife, walking and conservation experiences to enjoy throughout the year, Pūkaha is a rewarding day out in every season.



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Stonehenge Aotearoa – learn how to read the sky

Stonehenge Aotearoa is New Zealand's own open air astronomical observatory, built following the ancient knowledge of stone circles and adapted to our southern skies.

Visit the henge to learn how our ancestors read the sky, from Māori starlore and Polynesian navigation to the cycles of the sun

and stars. The henge is open Wednesday to Sunday, 10am to 4pm, with guided and sunset tours by arrangement. There are exciting things on the way, so watch this space.

Book at <https://stonehenge-aotearoa.nz/> or phone 06 377 1600.

Kuripuni Bar and Tavern: lively and fun

Ready for a good night out? Head to Kuripuni Bar & Tavern, where a warm welcome, live sport, entertainment and good company come together in a relaxed local atmosphere.

A favourite with Wairarapa locals, sports fans and visitors, Kuripuni is the place to settle in, catch the action and enjoy a few laughs with friends. Big screens show live sporting events and UFC action, creating an electric atmosphere when the big games are on.

Racing fans are well catered for, too, with Kuripuni the only pub in the Wairarapa featuring a TAB manned terminal and three SSTs. When the weather is fine, grab a drink and head

to the Outdoor Garden Bar, where you can enjoy the sunshine without missing the action.

There's plenty to keep the fun going, with two free pool tables, darts and gaming. Knockout Pool runs every Thursday at 7pm, while Quiz Night takes place on the first Wednesday of each month at 7pm.

Feeling hungry? Re-Burger serves up satisfying burgers, perfect alongside a cold drink and good company.

So, grab your mates and head to Kuripuni today. Pull up a seat, catch the game, challenge someone to pool and settle in for a great time. With sport, food, games and friendly faces, Kuripuni is ready to welcome you.

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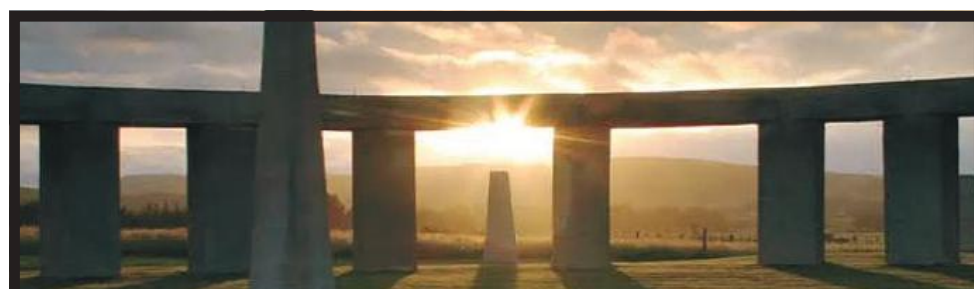
Picture yourself behind the reins of a stagecoach, battling roaring rivers, treacherous ranges and howling winds as you race to deliver the mail. For William Hastwell, this was no adventure story – it was the daily reality of helping to connect early Wairarapa. Discover his remarkable story at Cobblestones Museum in Greytown.

Here, history is more than something to read about. See the original stables and cobbles that formed the foundation of Hastwell's business, then capture the moment with a photo in the Glass Coach or replica stagecoach.

Bring a picnic and relax in the extensive gardens before exploring more of the past. Visit the tiny one-room schoolhouse, the original church once shared by different denominations, and a cottage that was home to a family of ten.

Discover the stories behind shearing and Wairarapa's first sheep flocks in the 170-year-old woolshed. On selected open days, you can even climb aboard the 1955 fire engine.

With authentic buildings, fascinating stories and hands-on experiences, Cobblestones brings New Zealand heritage vividly to life. Check the museum's Facebook page or website for special events, open days and spring opening hours.



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To book a visit or event go to: www.stonehenge-aotearoa.nz
and hit the orange BOOK NOW button
Phone 06 377 1600 51 Ahiaruhe Road, Carterton

Lots on at libraries this week

How to build a successful and long-lasting family business will be presented at Te Matapihi ki te ao nui Central Library on Thursday 15 October from 4.30pm to 6.30pm.

All family members involved in a family business will benefit from this free interactive workshop.

Philip Pryor and Bob Selden of Family Business Central will discuss issues relevant to the group and provide practical solutions and ideas.

Spaces are limited for this workshop and registrations are required. <https://wellingtoncitylibraries.trumba.com/How-to-build-a-successful-and-long-lasting-family-business/E206611087>.

Wellington City Libraries is holding a range of entertaining and informative events across their branches to celebrate Te Wiki Kaumātua Seniors Week. All events are listed on the Wellington City Libraries event calendar <https://wellingtoncitylibraries.trumba.com/>

Baby Rock and Rhyme Grandparents Special takes place at Waitohi Johnsonville Library on Monday 12 October from 10.30am to 11am.

These free sessions allow parents, grandparents and carers to interact with their babies and mokopuna through songs and stories. Bond across the generations with these fun and interactive sessions.

Seniors' Week Morning tea at Karori Library will be held on Wednesday 14 October from 11am to noon.

"Like to chat and eat cake? Come along to our Karori Library Seniors' Week morning tea," Wellington City Libraries (WCL) says.

"We will provide a hot drink and homemade goodies for your delectation."

Seniors in the HIVE will be held at Waitohi

Johnsonville Library on Tuesday 13 October from 10.30am to noon.

This will be a hands-on technology-rich session for kaumātua whereby they are guided through what the Tūhura HIVE Makerspace and Recording Studio has to offer. This includes the recording studio, loom, 3-d printer, laser cutter, cricut crafting, VR experience.

Registrations are recommended by calling (04) 477 6151

Seniors Week High Tea Book Chat will take place at Wadestown Library on Wednesday 14 October from 11am to noon.

"Join us for a special Seniors Week high tea book chat," WCL says.

"Pop in for casual conversations about books with other book lovers over a lovely morning tea. Discuss what you've been reading and the books you already, or would, love to read.

"A librarian will be on hand with recommendations and readers' advisory."

Rare Books Show and Tell will be held at Te Matapihi ki te Ao Nui Central Library on Monday 12 October from 10am to 11am.

Come and discover a selection of special items selected from the library's Rare Book collection, some of which date back as far as late 15th Century.

Presented in depth by Local and New Zealand History Specialist, Gábor Tóth Gábor has been involved in researching and documenting the region's history for over 30 years, as well as digitising heritage materials and developing new resources to help communities engage with their past.

Looking for Health Information will be presented at Te Matapihi ki te Ao nui Central Library on Monday 12 October from 2pm to 3pm.



Today, there is more health information available than ever before to support our health and wellbeing, but finding trustworthy information and making sense of sometimes conflicting advice can be challenging. Digital technologies offer many opportunities, but they also raise important questions about quality, reliability and trust.

In this talk, the presenters explore how people seek and use health information, discuss common challenges when navigating health information online and share practical tips to help you find, evaluate, and use information with greater confidence in your everyday life.

Presented by Samina Munir and Jennifer Campbell-Meier of Te Herenga Waka Victoria University of Wellington, School of Information Management and Wellington School of Business and Government.

Talk: Artificial Intelligence in Everyday Life will be held at Te Matapihi ki te Ao Nui Central Library on Tuesday 13 October from 10.30am to 11.30am.

"This free talk will explore what Artificial Intelligence (AI) is, how it is being used in everyday situations, and what opportunities and challenges it presents," WCL says.

"Many people already interact with AI every day through online search, navigation apps, streaming services, social media, customer support tools, and other digital services, often without realising it.

"We will discuss practical ways to use AI responsibly, the benefits it can offer and what to be mindful of when it comes to privacy, accuracy, bias, and trust.

"Join us for an accessible and balanced conversation about living alongside AI in a rapidly changing world."

Presented by Jennifer Campbell-Meier and Rebecca Mines of Te Herenga Waka Victoria University of Wellington, School of Information Management and Wellington School of Business and Government.

Makerspace Laser Cutting Workshop for Seniors will be held at Te Matapihi ki te Ao Nui Central Library on Tuesday 13 October from 3pm to 4pm.

"Join us at Te Whaitua Auaha Makerspace for a Seniors' Week laser cutting session," WCL says.

"You'll have the chance to have a look around the makerspace and watch our laser cutter at work cutting out some projects for you to put together.

"Please note that workshop spaces are limited to seniors only and registrations are required to attend.

"There will be a couple of projects on hand to choose from and supplies available to assemble and decorate them during the session. We look forward to introducing you to our makerspace and working on some projects together."

<https://wellingtoncitylibraries.trumba.com/Makerspace-Laser-Cutting-Workshop-for-Seniors/E206646071>

Introduction to our eLibrary! will be presented at Te Matapihi ki te Ao Nui Central Library on Tuesday 13 October from 11.30am to 12.30pm.

"Join us for a walk-through of some of the free digital services you gain access to with your library card," WCL says.

"This presentation will explain the basics around accessing eBooks, eAudiobooks, movies and more.

"We'll delve into how to get started on your device and different accessibility features to use, setting you up for easy future use."

Digital Help: Drop-in Session will take place at Te Matapihi ki te Ao Nui Central Library on Tuesday 13 October from 12.30pm to 2.30pm.

"Join us for a casual digital help drop-in session, run in collaboration with Age Concern Wellington," WCL says.

"Chat with us about your digital concerns and get hands on help for your technology related issues.

"We'll help answer your digital questions and support you to build confidence in accessing and using day to day technology.

"We can also assist you to learn about and access our free eLibrary and online resources.

"Please bring your phone, tablet or laptop along with you, fully charged."

Live music: Avatar, a 17-piece Earth, Wind & Fire tribute band will perform at Te Matapihi ki te Ao Nui Central Library on Wednesday 14 October from 1pm to 2pm.

Come along to a performance by Avatar, a 17-piece Earth, Wind & Fire tribute band formed and led entirely by Jazz students at the New Zealand School of Music.

Wellington: from Conception to Capital to Empire City will be presented at Te Matapihi ki te Ao Nui Central Library on Wednesday 14 October from 11am to noon.

In 2025, Wellington celebrated the 160th anniversary of the city becoming the Capital of New Zealand in 1865.

However one of the most fascinating periods of our early colonial history was the period leading up to 1865 and the nature of our early settlement. What were the motivations of the New Zealand Company in founding the settlement and how did economic conditions in Britain influence their actions?

This local history talk will investigate these issues, examine the fragility of early Wellington and the impact that becoming the capital city had on our economy.

This local history talk is presented by WCL's Local and New Zealand History Specialist, Gábor Tóth. All events are free. Nau mai rā tātou katoa. Everyone is welcome.

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The Luke Woodcock Viewing Room. Photo: Supplied.

Johnsonville Cricketer honoured

Johnsonville and Wellington Cricket great Luke Woodcock has been honoured at the Cello Basin Reserve.

A new room – the Luke Woodcock Viewing Room – has been established in the Ewen Chatfield Pavilion.

“I’ve spent a lot of time at the Basin over the years, so having a room here with my name on it is pretty special and probably something I never expected when I made my Wellington debut at 19,” Luke says.

Luke began his cricket journey with the Johnsonville Cricket Club, where he remains the club’s record-holder for runs and centuries, before making his Wellington debut in 2001 at just 19.

Across an incredible 384 appearances for Wellington in all three formats of the game, Luke scored 10,594 runs and took 339 wickets.

He holds Wellington records for first-class appearances and runs, as well as T20 appearances and wickets.

His career included Wellington’s 2004 first-class title, the 2014 Ford Trophy and T20 championships in 2015 and 2017.

He also represented the Blackcaps, playing

four ODIs and three T20 internationals and featured in the 2011 Cricket World Cup squad.

In 2017, Luke became the most-capped first-class player for a single team in New Zealand when he made his 128th first-class appearance for Wellington.

After finishing his playing career, Luke continued to make his mark through coaching roles with the Wellington Blaze and the organisation’s men’s pathway programme.

His time with the Blaze included three Super Smash titles and a Hallyburton Johnstone Shield title.

For Luke, Wellington Cricket has been as much about the people as the Cricket itself.

The naming of the home team viewing room recognises Luke’s extraordinary contribution to Wellington Cricket, both on and off the field, while giving current and future players a place to gather, watch the game and, no doubt, tell a few stories of their own.

From Johnsonville to the Basin, from player to coach, and from teammate to mentor, Luke has been part of Wellington Cricket for more than two decades.

Metlink hits major milestone

More than a million Metlink trips have now been paid for using debit and credit cards, and smart phones and watches.

The milestone was reached in September after technology enabling these contactless payment options was introduced in mid-April.

Greater Wellington Chair Daran Ponter says Wellingtonians had long asked for the technology, which has quickly become a trusted and popular way to travel.

“A million trips shows passengers have confidence in our system and value having more ways to pay for public transport,” Cr Ponter says.

“Targeted at Snapper customers paying the standard adult fare, our passengers are embracing the convenience of paying for bus and train journeys with cards and devices they already carry.

“Feedback tells us the convenience and security of the system is making public transport easier and more accessible for passengers to travel around the region.”

The uptake also gives passengers a head start ahead of next year’s introduction of the National Ticketing Solution (NTS) in Wellington. Snapper cards will continue to be accepted on Metlink buses and trains until the NTS arrives.

Under the new system, passengers will be able to pay with credit, debit, Motu Move cards and eligible devices on public transport networks across the country.

Greater Wellington Public Transport Committee Chair Ros Connelly says the growing use of contactless payments is helping familiarise Metlink customers with technology underpinning the NTS.

“By giving people more ways to pay,



Metlink is making the shift to the NTS easier, and becoming a faster, more efficient public transport network,” Cr Connelly says.

“We’re committed to creating a seamless public transport experience across the country. The milestone shows customers have built trust in the system, and that Metlink did the right thing for its passengers by introducing the technology prior to the arrival of the NTS.”

Cr Connelly says contactless payments will also support the future removal of cash fares from Metlink services.

“Handling cash on vehicles slows boarding, adds costs, and is increasingly out of step with how people pay for services.

“As our fare payment system evolves, we’re futureproofing Metlink by giving passengers access to a broader array of contactless payment options,” Cr Connelly says.

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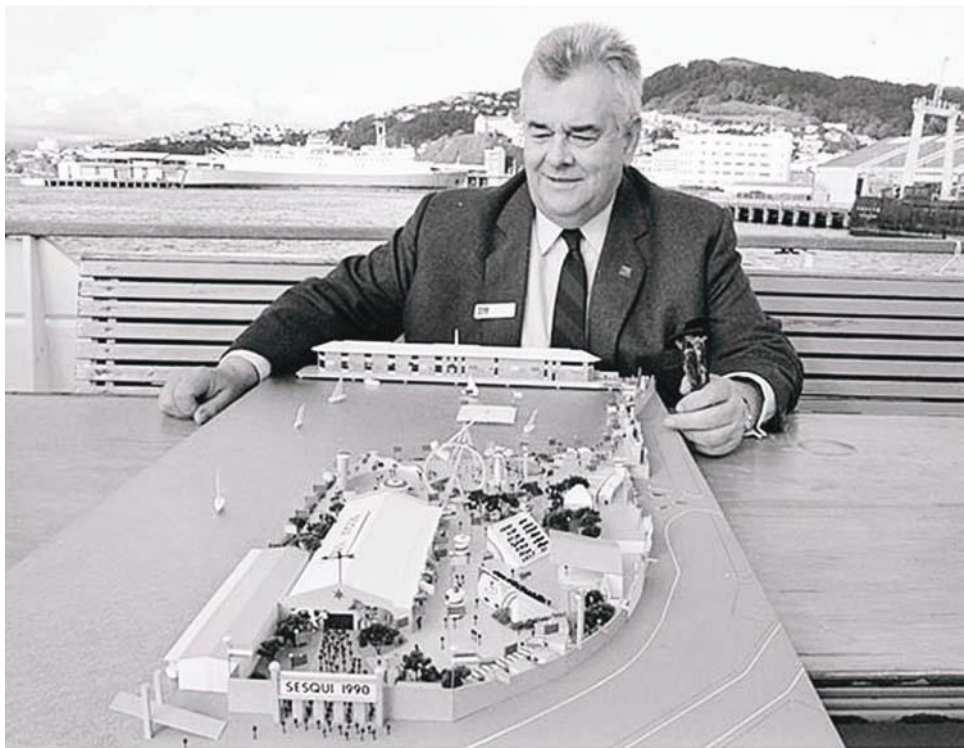
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Six months before it was due to open, oganiser John Gittus showing a model of Sesqui 1990. Photo: teara.govt.nz.

Local history – 1990 Sesqui

By Felicity Wong

Emptying the historic Harbour Board Office/Bond Store of its Wellington (maritime) Museum risks a new “Sesqui”.

Mayor Andrew Little recently called its old things “hodge podge”, “random” and like “grandma’s attic”.

He wants a “modern” museum at the costly Takina Convention Centre.

Playwright and humorist Dave Armstrong suggested a museum of Wellington City Council failures instead.

He proposed featuring the Moa Point sewage disaster, complete with smells; the expensive library website; and the million dollar per month loss making Takina itself.

He suggested featuring Wellington’s “Sesqui” celebration.

The Sesqui “experience” was a carnival celebrating 150 years of the Treaty of Waitangi and the founding of Wellington.

It was built at Taranaki Wharf but shut early owing millions of dollars after the 1.7 million expected visitors failed to show.

Sesqui was misconceived and its February 1990 timing clashed with the (then) hugely successful International Festival of the Arts.

The biennial Arts Festival began in 1986 under respected Director Christopher Doig.

Its music, dance and theatre offerings were another success in 1988 and expected to be so again in 1990.

Sesqui, however, left millions in debt including \$1.5 million to ratepayers.

An Audit Office enquiry followed.

The review found that the Council did not adequately consider Sesqui’s financials.

The Council had set up a “Wellington 1990 Trust” (with charitable status) to “organise a series of cultural, sport, trade and historical celebrations”.

The trust entered a joint venture with the Wellington Show Association to deliver the experience under a “Sesqui Board”.

Representing the Council’s 1990 Trust was Geoff Datson (Chairman), ex Mayor Sir Michael Fowler and City Councillor Lady Anna Weir.

Representing the Show Association was swimmer and sports administrator Keith Hancox, accountant Peter Morpeth, D Simms, M Hill and Jill von Kohorm, wife of a philanthropic industrialist.

An Australian events promoter was employed as Sesqui’s Chief Executive,

John Gittus was a marketer for Brisbane’s successful Expo ‘88, with plans for a state of the art carnival attraction.

He predicted 2 million visitors would visit Sesqui.

The Council thought 1.7 million was realistic and agreed to lend \$100,000 for set up

costs and \$100,000 in underwriting.

By early 1990 Sesqui had a cash flow crisis due to few ticket pre-sales.

It asked for more money and Council agreed to further underwriting, taking its exposure to \$753,000 and the Regional Council’s to \$650,000.

The Council relied on the Sesqui Chairman’s “full confidence” in the optimistic budget, despite it not having gone to Sesqui’s Board.

The Council’s loan and its underwriting of failure was “secured” against the Show Association’s lease of the Show and Sports Centre in Newtown (now the home of the NZ Schools of Dance & Drama, Toi Whakaari).

The Audit Office pointed out later that the land was already owned by WCC as town belt-reserve.

Some Councillors questioned the projected visitor numbers, but were reassured by a confidential report that \$1.5m in savings had been made by cutting hall hire, advertising, construction and security.

Sesqui’s Australian advertising agency and its official Foster’s beer gave it an Australian flavour.

Despite promotion as “New Zealand’s biggest event ever”, visitors stayed away.

Attractions felt empty, expensive and poorly organised.

Plans for a “Māori stand”, “Ngā Paiaka” (“the Māori Dimension”), fell through with its trustee Craig Walters splitting from Sesqui.

He said they were expected to rent a stand at the back of the carnival site for \$75,000; give Sesqui 20% of all sales; and get no portion of gate takings.

The stand was instead set up on a separate Wellington site.

Within days of opening the temp staff company Lampen Group withdrew its ticket sellers and parking attendants saying Sesqui had missed a payment.

Sesqui was then opened to the public for free, but it was too late. Sesqui became the “Carnival of Debt”.

The Audit Office said “the Council allowed itself to be pressured by lack of time for adequate consideration . . . and by elected representatives who attended Sesqui meetings.”

“WCC found itself in a position where it had little option but to support the festival”.

The Wellington Museums Trust Chair Martin Matthews will seek to raise \$6.3m for the new museum project to prop up the failing Takina convention centre.

Ratepayers will also be asked to approve another \$6.3m in the Council’s upcoming ten year budget to fund the new museum.

Better to keep the museum’s old things at the beloved historic Bond Store, and sell Takina?

Learn CPR this month

People are being encouraged to learn CPR by Hato Hone St John this month.

Cardiac arrest can happen to anyone, anywhere, at any time, and knowing what to do can be the difference between life and death.

Whether it's a parent, a child, a friend or a neighbour, every New Zealander has the power to help save a life.

This October, Hato Hone St John, along with major sponsor MAS (Medical Assurance Society), is urging people to "learn CPR for your loved one" by taking part in Shocktober, Hato Hone St John's annual CPR and AED awareness campaign, now in its fifth year.

Shocktober is about empowering more people to act when every second counts, Jacqui Tatnell, Hato Hone St John Head of Community Education, says.

"Our research shows that every minute without CPR or defibrillation, a person's chance of survival falls by 10 to 15%, so community action is the key to saving more lives.

"Throughout Shocktober we aim to reach more than 17,000 people through our free 3 Steps for Life programme, First Aid Training courses, St John in Schools and community events.

"We'll be teaching the key steps to take when someone suffers from cardiac arrest, including calling 111 for an ambulance, starting CPR and applying a defibrillator."

Jo McCauley, MAS Chief Executive, says the campaign is an investment in building stronger, safer communities.

"MAS is proud to support Shocktober and help more New Zealanders gain lifesaving skills.

"Over the past year, more than 32,000 people completed 3 Steps for Life training, meaning more people know how to act in those critical moments before emergency services arrive.

"You never know whose life you might save, but knowing what to do means someone gets the chance to return home to their family."

Throughout Shocktober Hato Hone St John is also highlighting the inequities in patient outcomes.

In the past year, more than 2,400 people were treated for out of hospital cardiac arrest by ambulance services across Aotearoa.

While 24% survived to hospital arrival, only 12% survived beyond one month.

Women are half as likely as men to receive



St John CPR training in action. Photo: Supplied.

lifesaving CPR and defibrillation from bystanders and have significantly lower survival rates. Māori and Pacific peoples also experience poorer outcomes, suffering from cardiac arrest at younger ages.

With 72% of cardiac arrest emergencies occurring in the home, ensuring people from all walks of life have the confidence to respond is critical.

Early bystander CPR and defibrillation can more than double the chance of survival, and to make defibrillators more accessible, Hato Hone St John launched the LifeBeat Mini defibrillator in July.

Similar in size to a mobile phone and lightweight to carry anywhere, it is designed

to help people respond quickly and confidently to sudden cardiac arrest.

"Our aim is to equip as many people as we can with the confidence and knowledge to act quickly when someone is in cardiac arrest," Ms Tatnell says.

"The skills learnt today could one day help save the life of a loved one, neighbour, or even a stranger."

WHAT'S ON...

The Community Noticeboard is for non-profit organisations. For \$15.00+GST you can publish up to 25 words.

No AGMS, sporting notices or special meetings. Community Notices must be pre-paid.

phone (04) 587 1660 or email classifieds@wsn.co.nz

"The Lady's not for Burning"

Cochran Hall, Khandallah. An exuberant and witty romantic comedy. This weekend and next. Book through <https://kat-theatre.org.nz/bookings>

Don't Chuck It. Fix It

Ngaio Repair Cafe is free, open Saturday 17 October, 10am - 1pm, Ngaio Union Church, corner Crofton Road and Kenya Street.

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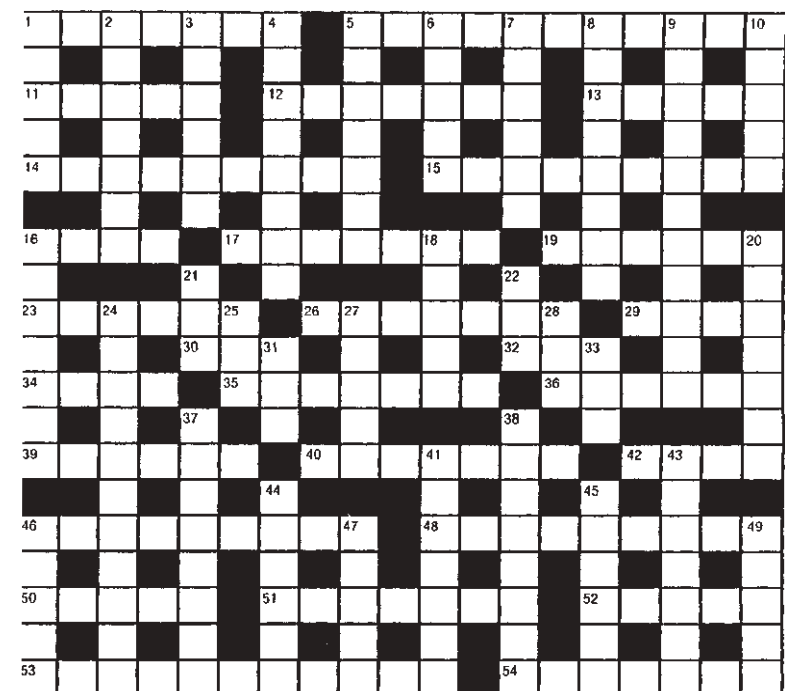
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CROSSWORD Puzzle



ACROSS

- Dubious (7)
- Liberated (11)
- High up (5)
- Large tent (7)
- Counter (5)
- Hung (9)
- Bears witness (9)
- Poet (4)
- List (7)
- Daintily odd (6)
- Free (6)
- Lionize (7)
- Against (4)
- One-horse carriage (3)
- The ... Commandments (3)
- Image (4)
- Inheritance (7)
- Wanaka 'warbird' collector, Sir Tim ... (6)
- Hard coating (6)
- Numbs (7)
- Crooked (4)
- Hateful (9)
- Pompous (9)
- Leg bone (5)

- Eighth of mile (7)
- Patent (5)
- Confirmation (11)
- River mouth (7)

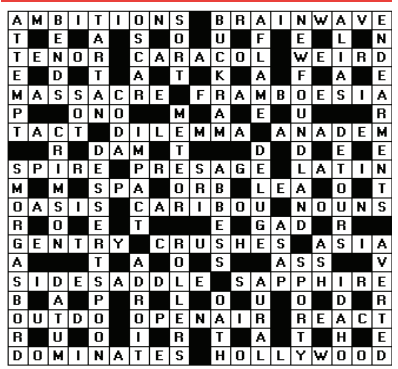
DOWN

- Switches (5)
- Supporter (7)
- Respect (6)
- Fear (8)
- Nobleman's estate (7)
- Grown up (5)
- Fold (6)
- Accessible (8)
- Based on custom (11)
- Adores (5)
- Charm (7)
- Areas (5)
- Parched (7)
- Lively dance (3)
- Towards stern of ship (3)
- Fear of open spaces (11)
- Akin (3)
- Accustom (5)
- Cemetery tree (3)
- Set (3)

- Negative vote (3)
- Backs away (8)
- Snare (8)
- Damn(s!) (7)
- Aboriginal spear (7)
- Young calf (6)
- Skilled (6)
- Change (5)
- Italian city (5)
- Way in (5)

Solution

Last Week: 1 October 2026



Onslow Cricketer joins Firebirds

Onslow Cricketer Ryan Tsourgas has been selected to represent Wellington full time. The 20-year-old seam bowler will join the Wellington Firebirds on a full-time contract for the 2026-27 season.

Ryan has been part of the wider Firebirds environment for the past couple of seasons, training regularly with the squad and representing Wellington Provincial A.

He enjoyed a strong season for Onslow Cricket Club's Premier Men's side last summer, taking 30 wickets in 17 matches, including best figures of 5/54.

The right-arm seamer has progressed through the Wellington pathway, representing Wellington Under-19s and Wellington Provincial A, as well as New Zealand Under-19s at the 2024 ICC Under-19 Men's World Cup in South Africa.

His elevation to a full-time Firebirds contract comes as Tim Robinson moves off a full-time contract to take up an opportunity with the Brisbane Heat in the KFC Big Bash League.

"Ryan was close to debuting for the Firebirds last year during our Ford Trophy campaign," Firebirds Head Coach Shane Jurgensen says.

"He thoroughly deserves his contract to be a Firebird and has been committed to developing himself and putting himself in a position to grab this opportunity."

"We're really pleased to see Ryan earn a full-time contract," Cricket Wellington General Manager High Performance Dave Wildash says.



Ryan Tsourgas, who has a full-time contract with the Firebirds. Photo: Supplied.

"He's been around the Firebirds environment for a while now and has continued to develop into a quality seam bowler.

"Ryan's journey is a great reflection of the Wellington pathway.

"He has progressed through our age-group programmes, club cricket and Provincial A

side before earning this opportunity with the Firebirds."

The Firebirds season will begin on 28 October when they host the Otago Volts in Round One of the Ford Trophy at the Cello Basin Reserve.

Mixed weekend for Wellington Footballers

By Hamish Wareham

A trip north brought about a first 2026 women's National League win for Waterside Karori, as they took on northern league side West Coast Rangers at Fred Taylor Park on 3 October.

Sienna Higinbotham gave West Coast the lead in the fifth minute before goals either side of halftime from Natalie Orellana and Sophie Burchfield, who took their season goal tally to 11 and 22 respectively.

The two goals saw Waterside Karori win the match 2-1.

After a bye in round one, Wellington United had their first outing of the campaign on Sunday 4 October at Newtown Park.

Taking on the best side in New Zealand women's football Auckland United, Wellington were so close to claiming a point off the defending champions before a 96th minute winner from Aniela Jensen saw Auckland fly home with all three points with their 1-0 win.

Waterside Karori are headed south this

weekend to take on Otago University, while United are headed North taking on Fencibles.

Miramar Rangers were the only Wellington club to register a win in the men's National League on the weekend, coming from a goal down and having one ruled out for what can only be described as questionable decision making.

Lewis Thompson and Connor Gaul were on the scoresheet either side of the halftime break, giving a suspension and injury rattled Rangers a 2-1 victory over Auckland FC Reserves.

Wellington Olympic struck first through Morgan Wellsbury but a second half brace from Jacob Killick, resigned the Greeks to a 2-1 defeat at the hands of Ferrymead Bays on 3 October.

A 2-1 loss seems like an achievement compared to the hammerings that were suffered by Napier Rovers and Phoenix Reserves being thumped 7-1 by Auckland United and 10-0 by Canterbury powerhouses Cashmere Technical.

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