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Water bill shock

By Frank Neill

Widespread shock has been expressed after people received their first water service bill from Tiaki Wai.

This has resulted in a significant number of people posting about the changes on social media pages.

Continued on page 2.

A ratepayer viewing the Tiaki Wai bill they have just received.
Photo: Frank Neill.



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Huge community frustration

Continued from page 1.

"I've never seen so much frustration in the community and stupid ludicrous bills that are way too expensive and unsustainable for many – regardless of a so called reduced rates," one Facebook post says.

"I'm worried about the elderly, in particular, who rely on the pension.

"Do they get some sort of discount? Otherwise how are they expected to pay this.

"MPs need to step up. Notice how quiet they are."

"We can't let Tiaki Wai keep pushing ahead with unaffordable water bills without listening to the people who have to pay them," another Facebook post says.

"It's time to stand up."

And these are just two of a long list of comments posted on Facebook.

This was "inevitable, wasn't it," says Stop Tiaki Wai founder Guy Nunns.

"Everyone online is talking about it."

Many of the people commenting did not seem to be aware, however, of the fact that the total amount people will have to pay both their local Council and Tiaki Wai would include a reduction in the rates component, as the Council would no longer be paying for water.

"There's a lot of ignorance out there, as people have not understood that Council was going to be taking out a portion of their rates from their rates bill to compensate for the water infrastructure rates from Tiaki Wai," Guy says.

"That's why there's a lot of anger there."

It raises the question as to "why the five councils [who set up Tiaki Wai] did not co-ordinate their rates billing with Tiaki Wai.

"It should have all come out at exactly the



Guy Nunns (left) and Jeremy Verity, two of the founders of Stop Tiaki Wai.

Photo: Frank Neill.

same time with cover notes, but that's not been done," Guy says.

There is a big variation in the increase people will have to pay when they add both the rates bill and the Tiaki Wai bill together.

"On average your bill is going to go up by about 10%," Guy says.

"If we compare it with other areas, we are paying a lot more already, and they are trying to make it [the water bill] three times more in a few years' time.

"I have a three bedroom house in Karori, and the rates currently are \$6,000 a year.

"In 10 years it might be getting close to tripling. It will be at least two and a half times what it is now.

"That's Tiaki Wai's figures. That's not mine," he said.

Because of that, Stop Tiaki Wai is continuing its initiatives to seek significant change to the Tiaki Wai set up.

"We are having a protest on 20 August," says Jeremy Verity, another of Stop Tiaki Wai's founders.

The protest will march from Frank Kitts

Park to Parliament, starting at 11:30am.

The protest, Guy says, "is against the action of Tiaki Wai.

"We want to completely change this organisation to suit us and us alone, the greater Wellington city ratepayer and resident."

Stop Tiaki Wai has both a website (stop-tiakiwai.org) and a Facebook page, and information on the upcoming protest will be posted there.

In the meantime "get involved and raise your voices," Guy says.

"What actions can you take?"

"You can write to your Councillor.

"You can write to the Mayor.

"You can write to your MP," he said, mentioning Casey Costello, Andy Foster from NZ First, Cameron Luxton from ACT and Tangi Utikere from the Labour Party.

"You can write outside your jurisdiction because now you are part of a water body that includes three other jurisdictions.

"You can write to the Minister of Local Government Simon Watts," Guy says.

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Another step forward for Newlands resilience

By Frank Neill

Resilience planning for Newlands, Paparangi and Woodridge took another step forward last week.

The Newlands Resilience Group (NRG) published its open proposal to Wellington and national decision-makers for a change in community wellbeing and disaster resilience across Newlands, Paparangi and Woodridge on 29 July.

Just after publishing its open proposal, NRG met with Mana MP Barbara Edmonds and Labour list MP Ginny Andersen, who is standing for Hutt South in this year's election.

"It's fantastic to see local people stepping up to make Newlands an even stronger, more connected community," Ms Andersen said following the meeting.

"Real resilience starts with neighbours knowing and supporting one another, whether that's lending a hand in an emergency, volunteering, or simply feeling like they belong.

"This initiative is about bringing people together, building trust and making sure our community is better prepared for whatever the future brings.

"I want to congratulate everyone involved for the time and energy they will be putting in to this work.

"It's a great example of what we can achieve when a community comes together with a shared vision," Ms Andersen said.

The NRG's open proposal "sits within a wider regional challenge," NRG says.

"Wellington faces increasingly complex, prolonged and

interconnected emergencies, and effective resilience depends on government agencies, infrastructure providers, community organisations and residents working together.

"The Wellington Region Civil Defence Emergency Management Group Plan recognises the important role of communities in emergency management.

"Our proposal explores how that strategic direction could be translated into practical neighbourhood capability by intentionally strengthening relationships, trust, local leadership, community organisation, preparedness, measurement and continuous improvement.

"The proposal brings together two connected opportunities:

- an 18-month community-led ACoRN pilot to strengthen connection, trust, volunteering, neighbourhood leadership, disaster preparedness and residents' participation in decisions affecting their community; and
- a preliminary public value analysis of the proposed Petone to Grenada Link Road.

"Our purpose is not to support or oppose the road at this stage.

"The analysis does not claim to represent the views of all residents. It is intended to help ensure that community wellbeing, environmental stewardship, disaster resilience and public trust are considered alongside transport, engineering and economic outcomes.

"We welcome residents' perspectives as this work develops and intend to update the analysis following our October 2026 annual community survey," NRG says.

More information, including the open proposal, is at newlandsrg.weebly.com/news.



MP Barbara Edmonds (left), NRG founder Rodney Barber and MP Ginny Andersen at last week's meeting on Newlands, Paparangi and Woodridge resilience. Photo: Supplied.

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Get in touch

My office is open 9am - 4pm
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Erection problems – why do men avoid treatment?

While attitudes to men's health have changed in recent years, there's still room for improvement. That's definitely the case with erectile dysfunction (ED), a condition estimated to affect around 300,000 kiwi blokes. To make matters worse, it's also estimated a whopping three quarters don't receive treatment. So what's holding men back from getting help for their ED? Well, here's the more common excuses....

"I don't like doctors."

Unless we're on death's door a lot of men are happier with their head in the sand than in the waiting room, especially if it's to talk about ED. The irony is that ED is often a sign of a more serious medical problem like high cholesterol, heart disease, diabetes or high blood pressure. Get your ED

issues looked at for this reason alone.

"I don't have a doctor."

You probably do but being a man you also probably don't see them enough to have built a strong relationship. If you're starting from scratch, find someone you trust and the best people to ask are

usually friends and family.

"I don't have time."

There are around 8,766 hours in a year and you want to save ... two? Wouldn't you rather get to the bottom of what's causing your ED and treat it than worry about saving a couple of hours?



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MEET YOUR Principal



Lesley Carter - Nga Tawa Diocesan School

Nga Tawa is an all girls secondary boarding and day school located in Marton. Principal Lesley Carter believes every student deserves an education that nurtures not only academic success, but also confidence, character and a genuine sense of purpose. At Nga Tawa, our Anglican special character is at the heart of this philosophy. Guided by Christian values, students are known, supported and challenged within our close-knit community. "We believe girls achieve their best when they are given every opportunity to discover

their strengths and pursue their passions. Whether in the classroom, the humanities and arts, sport, leadership or service, every experience contributes to educating the whole student." Academic excellence is underpinned by ongoing investment in high-quality teaching. "By continually strengthening our literacy and numeracy programmes, alongside targeted support and extension opportunities, we ensure every student is equipped to achieve her best. Our NCEA results reflect this, with 100% pass rates across Levels 1, 2

and 3 and University Entrance." A defining feature of Nga Tawa is our internationally recognised on-site Equestrian Academy, where students train with accomplished coaches.

Ph. +64 6 327 6429

Email: info@ngatawa.school.nz



Kevin Carter - Rongotai College

Kevin Carter has proudly led Rongotai College since 2009, bringing extensive experience in boys' education and a clear vision for helping every young man achieve his potential.

Rongotai College offers the advantages of a boys' school education in a supportive environment where students are known as individuals, not numbers. With smaller class sizes and strong relationships between staff and students, boys receive the encouragement, guidance and challenge they need to

thrive academically, socially and personally. It is a place where no boy is lost in the crowd.

Before joining Rongotai College, Mr Carter held leadership positions at Auckland Grammar School, Napier Boys' High School and Tauranga Boys' College. He believes the key to success is creating a culture of high expectations, personal responsibility and mutual respect, while providing opportunities for every student to discover their strengths.

Whether in the classroom, on the sports field, on the stage or through service to

others, Rongotai College is committed to developing confident, capable and well-rounded young men prepared for life beyond school.

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www.rongotai.school.nz



Stephen Eames - Rāroa Normal Intermediate

I am extremely proud to be the Tumuaki of Rāroa Normal Intermediate and I am fortunate to be part of an amazing learning community of students, staff and whānau.

Rāroa kaiako are committed to meeting the diverse needs of akonga. We recognise that emerging adolescence is a time of significant personal, physiological and neurological change. We respond to these needs by providing an environment where they can thrive. The Intermediate/Middle School education model provides opportunities to specifically cater to akonga at their age and stage of development. Rāroa has a rich

history of excellence and innovation. It is a school culture that is defined by high-quality teaching and a strong emphasis on whanaungatanga, or building relationships, to enhance the learning experience and strengthen student engagement. We believe in personalised approaches and ensure that everyone is valued, respected, and cared for in safe and stimulating learning environments.

Our programmes incorporate the best of both traditional and modern teaching pedagogy to create a vibrant, engaging and student-focused curriculum. Learning takes many forms at Rāroa and we provide authentic learning experiences

to help students reach their full potential intellectually, socially, creatively and physically. As we seek to uphold the principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi, we motivate students to become contributing, participating members of our learning community. Rāroa is the leading choice for age and stage specific middle school education.



Christian Pera – Altum Classical Academy

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Jono Wyeth - Onslow College

He kura motuhake a Te Kāreti o Tarikākā, i runga i te rangatiratanga o ngā taurua me ngā kaimahi, me ngā whānau. What makes Onslow College special - it is the students, it is the staff, it is the community. Onslow College Principal, Jono Wyeth, wants every student to feel empowered to achieve their full potential and grow into confident, and valued members of Aotearoa. Our school is built upon a clear vision and a strong set of values that are the foundation of everything we do: Manaakitanga, Pursuing Growth, Whanaungatanga, Valuing Diversity and Kaitiakitanga. These values underpin

our commitment to academic excellence and holistic development. We are consistently among the top schools in New Zealand for academic achievement. Since 2022, we have been in the top 5 state co-ed secondary schools across all of New Zealand for University Entrance attainment, including being the number 1 school in 2024. In 2025, Onslow College had the second highest rate of Merit and Excellence Endorsements across all Wellington State and State Integrated Schools. As a leader, Jono embodies the Onslow College vision of meeting people where they are, nurturing

them to thrive and supporting them to achieve their aspirations. "Onslow College is a school where you can be yourself in an environment that will challenge and care for you in equal measure." - Jono Wyeth, Tumuaki/ Principal
Website: <https://onslow.school.nz/> Email: principal@onslow.school.nz



MEET YOUR Principal



Paula Wells – Samuel Marsden Collegiate School

Paula Wells is Principal of Samuel Marsden Collegiate School in Karori, where she inspires girls to aim high, think deeply and grow in confidence. A strategic educational leader, Paula is a Board member of College Sport Wellington and was recently awarded Life Membership of School Sport New Zealand, recognising nine years of service on its Board, including four as Chair.

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Paula's leadership, Marsden champions academic excellence, with consistently outstanding results and the recent reintroduction of Cambridge International.

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Deb King - Newlands College

Discover your future at Newlands College, a vibrant inclusive community where passionate educators and curious minds succeed together. We invite you to join a supportive environment that empowers every student to find their voice, think critically, and actively shape their own path. Whether you are taking centre stage in our renowned annual musicals, participating in cultural showcases, or joining our highly active sports teams, our school provides the ultimate platform to belong and excel.

At the heart of our college - both physically and culturally - is Te Ao Mārama, reflecting our deep commitment to Te Ao Māori and the rich diversity of Aotearoa. We don't just aim for academic success; we grow lifelong learners grounded in manaakitanga, integrity, and respect. Here, you will learn the value of hard work while contributing meaningfully to the world around you. Step into an aspirational school where your individuality is celebrated. Your journey starts at Newlands College.

Tel: (04) 473 4136
Website: www.newlands.school.nz



Jennifer Ioannou – St Brigid's School

Jennifer Ioannou has been the Principal/ Tumuaki of St Brigid's School, Johnsonville since July 2022 and feels blessed and privileged to lead the St Brigid's community.

St Brigid's School is a multicultural Catholic school situated in the heart of Johnsonville, catering for over 300 students from Years 1–8. The school's vision, "Learning together with strength of character and gentleness of heart," and its values of aroha (love), māia (courage), whakapono (faith),

and kotahitanga (inclusiveness) underpin all aspects of school life and shape the strong culture of St Brigid's. These guiding principles contribute to the school's well-deserved reputation, with St Brigid's students entering college as competent young people of good character.

Jennifer is passionate about fostering a school environment that is supportive, inclusive, and culturally connected, with a curriculum that is engaging, future-focused, and integrates wellbeing education.

Web: www.stbrigids.school.nz
Phone: 04 478 6516



Amelie Kelder – St Catherine's College

Nō Belgium tōku whānau, ā, nā Te Tiriti o Waitangi au i whai tūrangawaewae ki Aotearoa.

Kei Te Whanganui-a-Tara tōku kāinga
Ko Amelie Kelder tōku ingoa

It is an absolute privilege to serve as Te Tumuaki o te Kāreti o Hāta Kataraina / the Principal of St Catherine's College. St Catherine's is a vibrant community where we celebrate the successes of our ākonga, deliver a strong academic programme, and offer a wide variety of extracurricular opportunities. Our Catholic Special Character is at the heart

of our College, with Mercy values guiding our teaching and learning. With students from a diverse range of nationalities, we take great pride in cherishing and celebrating our multicultural identities. This year, our school was ranked as the top Academic Catholic College in Wellington and fourth among Catholic colleges nationwide. We were also proud to win the prestigious O'Shea Shield competition, while our sports teams continue to thrive and advance in their divisions. My vision for the school is to foster an environment where every ākonga feels happy, safe, and finds joy

in learning—a place where they celebrate both their own achievements and those of others, while deepening their Catholic identity as they navigate new challenges and decisions. I am looking forward to welcoming new students and their whānau to our community.



St Catherine's College



Tim Kuipers - Wellington Hills Christian College

Tēnā koutou katoa. It's my pleasure to introduce you to Wellington Hills Christian College. We are dedicated to offering an education built on the Christian truth that each student is created in God's image and is precious in His sight.

This belief motivates each teacher to know, support and inspire each child, leading to high expectations for personal and academic growth.

Christian education also opens minds to a clear and compassionate understanding of life, equipping students to use their gifts and

talents to make a positive impact on the world. We want our students to know they are part of something bigger than themselves, part of something with eternal significance.

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2026

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	31 July	Tasman v North Harbour	Trafalgar Park	7:10 pm
	1 August	Counties Manukau v Taranaki	Navigation Homes Stadium	2:05 pm
	1 August	Southland v Otago	Invercargill Rugby Park	5:05 pm
	1 August	Canterbury v Auckland	One NZ Stadium	7:10 pm
	2 August	Northland v Manawātū	Semenoff Stadium	2:05 pm
	2 August	Wellington v Hawke's Bay	Hnry Stadium	5:05 pm
ROUND 2	6 August	North Harbour v Counties Manukau	North Harbour Stadium	7:10 pm
	7 August	Taranaki v Waikato	Stadium Taranaki	7:10 pm
	8 August	Auckland v Wellington	Eden Park	2:05 pm
	8 August	Bay Of Plenty v Northland	Rotorua International Stadium	5:05 pm
	8 August	Hawke's Bay v Tasman	McLean Park	7:10 pm
	9 August	Otago v Canterbury	Barr Stadium	2:05 pm
	9 August	Manawātū v Southland	Central Energy Trust Arena	5:05 pm
ROUND 3	13 August	Wellington v North Harbour	Hnry Stadium	7:10 pm
	14 August	Northland v Taranaki	Semenoff Stadium	7:10 pm
	15 August	Canterbury v Bay Of Plenty	One NZ Stadium	2:05 pm
	15 August	Auckland v Hawke's Bay	Eden Park	5:05 pm
	15 August	Manawātū v Otago	Central Energy Trust Arena	7:10 pm
	16 August	Southland v Waikato	Invercargill Rugby Park	2:05 pm
	16 August	Counties Manukau v Tasman	Navigation Homes Stadium	5:05 pm
ROUND 4	20 August	Canterbury v Northland	One NZ Stadium	7:10 pm
	21 August	Hawke's Bay v Manawātū	McLean Park	7:10 pm
	22 August	Tasman v Southland	Lansdowne Park	1:05 pm
	22 August	North Harbour v Auckland	North Harbour Stadium	5:35 pm
	22 August	Bay Of Plenty v Taranaki	Rotorua International Stadium	7:35 pm
	23 August	Waikato v Counties Manukau	FMG Stadium Waikato	2:05 pm
	23 August	Otago v Wellington	Forsyth Barr Stadium	5:05 pm
ROUND 5	27 August	Southland v Hawke's Bay	Invercargill Rugby Park	7:10 pm
	28 August	Auckland v Bay Of Plenty	Eden Park	7:10 pm
	29 August	Taranaki v Canterbury	Stadium Taranaki	2:05 pm
	29 August	Otago v Waikato	Forsyth Barr Stadium	5:05 pm
	29 August	Manawātū v North Harbour	Central Energy Trust Arena	7:10 pm
	30 August	Wellington v Counties Manukau	Hnry Stadium	2:05 pm
	30 August	Northland v Tasman	Semenoff Stadium	5:05 pm
ROUND 6	3 September	Taranaki v Auckland	Stadium Taranaki	7:10 pm
	4 September	Hawke's Bay v Otago	McLean Park	7:10 pm
	5 September	Bay Of Plenty v Manawātū	Tauranga Domain	2:05 pm
	5 September	Tasman v Wellington	Lansdowne Park	5:05 pm
	5 September	Waikato v Canterbury	FMG Stadium Waikato	7:10 pm
	6 September	Counties Manukau v Southland	Navigation Homes Stadium	2:05 pm
	6 September	North Harbour v Northland	North Harbour Stadium	5:05 pm

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ANCIAL RUGBY

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ROUND 7

10 September	Manawatū v Taranaki	Central Energy Trust Arena	7:10 pm
11 September	Otago v Tasman	Forsyth Barr Stadium	7:10 pm
12 September	Auckland v Counties Manukau	Eden Park	2:05 pm
12 September	Northland v Waikato	Semenoff Stadium	5:05 pm
12 September	Canterbury v Wellington	One NZ Stadium	7:10 pm
13 September	Hawke's Bay v North Harbour	McLean Park	2:05 pm
13 September	Southland v Bay Of Plenty	Invercargill Rugby Park	5:05 pm

ROUND 8

17 September	Counties Manukau v Otago	Navigation Homes Stadium	7:10 pm
18 September	Tasman v Auckland	Trafalgar Park	7:10 pm
19 September	Bay Of Plenty v Hawke's Bay	Tauranga Domain	2:05 pm
19 September	Waikato v Manawatū	FMG Stadium Waikato	5:05 pm
19 September	Wellington v Northland	Hnry Stadium	7:10 pm
20 September	North Harbour v Canterbury	North Harbour Stadium	2:05 pm
20 September	Taranaki v Southland	Stadium Taranaki	5:05 pm

ROUND 9

24 September	Tasman v Bay Of Plenty	Trafalgar Park	7:10 pm
25 September	Auckland v Manawatū	Eden Park	7:10 pm
26 September	Northland v Counties Manukau	Semenoff Stadium	2:05 pm
26 September	Canterbury v Southland	One NZ Stadium	5:05 pm
26 September	North Harbour v Otago	North Harbour Stadium	7:10 pm
27 September	Wellington v Waikato	Hnry Stadium	2:05 pm
27 September	Hawke's Bay v Taranaki	McLean Park	5:05 pm

ROUND 10

1 October	Otago v Auckland	Forsyth Barr Stadium	7:10 pm
2 October	Southland v Northland	Invercargill Rugby Park	7:10 pm
3 October	Manawatū v Canterbury	Central Energy Trust Arena	2:05 pm
3 October	Counties Manukau v Hawke's Bay	Navigation Homes Stadium	5:05 pm
3 October	Waikato v Tasman	FMG Stadium Waikato	7:10 pm
4 October	Taranaki v Wellington	Stadium Taranaki	2:05 pm
4 October	Bay Of Plenty v North Harbour	Tauranga Domain	5:05 pm

ROUND 11 Quarter-finals

9 October	TBC v TBC	TBC	TBC
10 October	TBC v TBC	TBC	TBC
10 October	TBC v TBC	TBC	TBC
11 October	TBC v TBC	TBC	TBC

ROUND 12 Semi-finals

17 October	TBC v TBC	TBC	TBC
18 October	TBC v TBC	TBC	TBC

ROUND 13

24 October	TBC v TBC	TBC	TBC
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FINAL: Saturday 24 October

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Housie is a midweek favourite – easy, social and full of laughs. Held first and third Wednesdays, tickets from 7:00pm, eyes down 7:30pm.

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LETTERS to the editor

Tiaki Wai a failure

Whose idea was it expecting the long suffering Wellington ratepayer to be able to afford to pay a bill of over \$NZ500 in one month?

Don't they know it's the middle of winter and budgets are already stretched by mile high power bills.

Or maybe they're not aware of the war in the Middle East skyrocketing petrol prices and adding to the misery of the cost of living crisis.

How much money was squandered on PR for this organisation?

One has to wonder if the CEO is capable of running such an organisation and command his exorbitant salary if he doesn't even have the common sense to ensure the early rollout of invoices so ratepayers could make affordable weekly payments before their invoices were due.

As far as PR is concerned Tiaki Wai is an

enormous failure.

The only thing that gives me solace is the fact that with elections coming up and future Council elections we can have our vote and vote those responsible for enabling this joke of an organisation out.

Let's start with the Local Body Minister the Hon Simon Watts.

We can then vote out the Mayors and Councillors in the next elections especially those on the Partners Committee of local council and iwi leaders that make up the committee that has direct oversight of Tiaki Wai.

Enough is enough.

We the ratepayers demand more accountability and expect Ministers wishing to hold a seat in Parliament to do something about this nonsense because clearly there is currently very little oversight of how this organisation is being run.

Outraged Ratepayer

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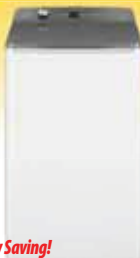


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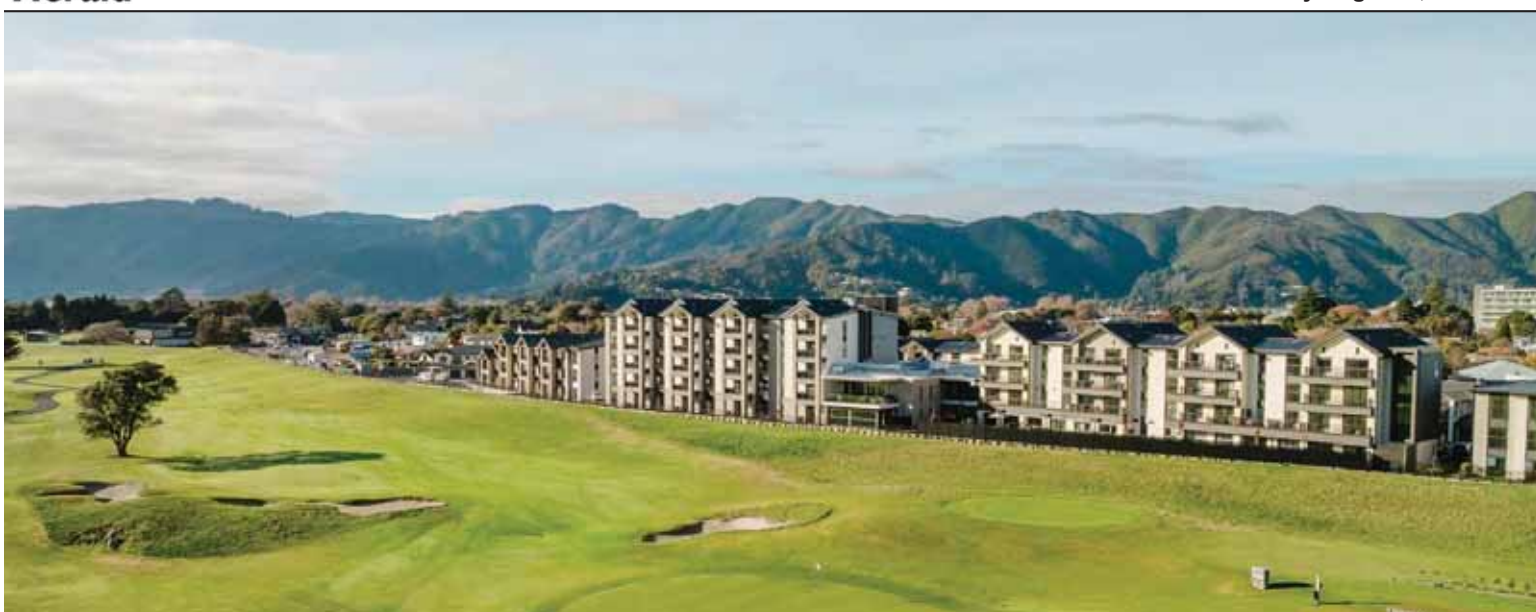
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Enthralling performance comes to Wellington

One of the most turbulent and compelling chapters of Judy Garland's life is brought to the stage in 'Judy's Encore'.

Starring award-winning artist Ali Harper (Menopause the Musical, A Doris Day Special, Legendary Divas, Songs for Nobodies, The Supper Club, The Look of Love, Bombshells), 'Judy's Encore' will play at Circa Theatre from 29 August to 26 September for 26 shows and is also featured in the TAHI New Zealand Solo Performance Festival, from 9 to 19 September.

A hit parade of legendary songs and raw, unfiltered storytelling, 'Judy's Encore' is a concert-style theatrical event that has wowed audiences internationally.

Set in 1967, 'Judy's Encore' captures Judy at a crossroads – returning to

Australia after a troubled tour, with her reputation on the line and critics waiting.

Battling exhaustion, expectation and the weight of her own legend, she steps back into the spotlight with everything to prove.

This is not just the story of a star, it's the story of a woman fighting to hold it all together.

Through more than 20 of her most iconic songs – including Get Happy, The Trolley Song, The Man That Got Away, and the Oscar-winning Somewhere Over the Rainbow – audiences are taken inside the pressure, the fragility, the humour and the fierce determination that defined Garland's final years on stage.

Brilliant, unpredictable, and utterly captivating, Judy Garland was a performer who lived on the edge

and 'Judy's Encore' doesn't look away from it. Instead, it leans in, asking the question that hung over every performance: would this be the night she soared or the night it all fell apart?

'Judy's Encore' has received a series of rave reviews. These include:

- "Ali Harper is quite simply phenomenal as Judy Garland" – The-atreview; and
- "A soul-stirring experience – BRILLIANT!" – All About Solo, New York.

'Judy's Encore' received the All About Solo Critics Award at the United Solo Festival in New York in 2025.

Written by Ali Harper, 'Judy's Encore' is a raw, revealing and deeply human portrait of one of the greatest entertainers of all time – and the price she paid for it.



Judy Garland. Photo: Supplied.

Amalgamation decision-making this week

Local body amalgamation is on this week's agenda for both Wellington City Council (WCC) and Greater Wellington Regional Council (GWRC).

GWRC discussed it and made decisions on 4 August and WCC is scheduled to discuss it today, 6 August.

At its meeting GWRC agreed that regional functions like flood protection, public transport and environmental management must continue to be managed at scale – and identified that a single unitary authority for the Wellington region can deliver this objective.

Excluded from submitting proposals through the government's Head Start pathway for Simplifying Local Government, the regional council agreed to advocate for the model developed by the Wellington Mayoral Forum: a single unitary authority supported by community councils.

GWRC Chair Daran Ponter says the next phase of reform must be co-designed by communities, councils, their elected members, iwi authorities and

the government – followed by a regional referendum.

"Local government belongs to communities," Cr Ponter says.

"If reform of this scale is going to proceed, it must be co-designed with the people who get the final say through a referendum.

"A single unitary authority in the Wellington region with strong community councils is the best way to simplify governance without breaking up the regional systems people rely on."

Deputy Chair Ros Connelly says multiple unitary authorities in the Wellington region could compound complexity rather than simplify local government. "The region can have a stronger, simpler structure and still keep decision-making close to communities," Cr Connelly says.

Greater Wellington will now write to ministers and political party leaders advocating for a single unitary authority designed collaboratively that maintains regional functions and retains local voice.

Hands-on tech-rich session

Seniors in the HIVE will be held at Waitohi Johnsonville Library on Tuesday 11 August from 10:30am to noon.

This will be a hands-on technology-rich session for kaumātua.

People attending will be guided through what Makerspace and Recording Studio has to offer, including the loom, 3D printer, laser cutter, cricut crafting and VR experience.

Registration is recommended and people can register by calling 04 477 6151

Tea & Tales Book Club takes place at Waitohi Johnsonville Library on Friday 7 August from 2pm to 3:30pm.

"Enjoy lively book discussions, share what you are reading and look at new and interesting books with like-minded people over a cuppa," Wellington City Libraries says.

"New members are always welcome."

Community Book Chat will be held at Ōtari Wadestown Library on Wednesday 12 August from 11am to noon.

"Pop along for a casual conversation about books," Wellington City Libraries says.

"Discuss what you have been reading lately, the books you love and those you are keen to get into with other book lovers.

"One of our librarians will be on hand with recommendations and



A scene from the loom, laser cutting and studio that will come to Waitohi Johnsonville Library on 11 August. Photo: Supplied.

readers' advisory."

Page Turners Teen Book Club will take place at Te Takapū o Patukawenga Tawa Library on Thursday 13 August from 3:30pm to 4:30pm.

"Are you ready to be part of the coolest book club around?" Wellington City Libraries asks.

"Look no further than the Page

Turners Book Club and Craft Society.

"We meet fortnightly to discuss books, share kai and do crafts. Explore new genres, get recommendations and share your reviews." This event is tailored for bookworms of all genders aged 11 and older. Spaces are limited to 10 attendees per session.

All events are free. Nau mai rā tātou katoa. Everyone is welcome.

WHAT'S ON...

Don't Chuck It. Fix It

Ngaio Repair Cafe is free, open Saturday 15 August, 10am - 1pm, Ngaio Union Church, corner Crofton Road and Kenya Street.

Onslow Historical Society

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Waterside Karori celebrates draw

By Hamish Wareham

Waterside Karori are having their say in deciding the men's Central League, while North Wellington hit a crossroad in their chase of a title.

2.30pm on Saturday 1 August brought about a break in the rain as round 15 of the men's Central League competition kicked off with Miramar Rangers having slipped down to third on the prior matchday taking on sixth placed Waterside

Karori in the midst of a two game unbeaten run.

Despite being under the kosh throughout the whole 90 minutes plus added time, the Wharries hung on for a 0-0 draw.

The match saw some below par Miramar finishing with an offside goal becoming the best that the home side could offer.

The final whistle brought roars of joy from Waterside Karori as Miramar were held to their second

draw in as many league games.

The Wharries are slipping somewhat out of the title race with three rounds to spare.

However they could still win the title for their fiercest rivals Wellington Olympic as the Wharries take on Napier in a fortnight at Bluewater Stadium.

TFS North Wellington's stop start season saw them travel to Hutt Park to take on eighth place Stop Out, a side they beat 4-0 in the opening

round.

A win would have kept them three points behind the Central League 2 league leaders Taradale.

However one goal from Stop Out on the hour mark snapped North Wellington's run of five wins and a draw out of their last six games and other results shifted them to fourth on the table.

With Seatoun, who are just below them on the table having a game in hand, a further slip could be on

the cards.

The Waterside Karori women now sit on the outside looking in on the fabled two National League spots from the women's Central League.

Despite a midweek 2-0 victory over Miramar Rangers on 29 July, a defeat by the same scoreline a week prior by league winners Wellington United has them sitting third on the table one point behind Petone in second with three games left in the season.

Local band in Rockquest final

By Frank Neill

Wellington band Lux is a national finalist in this year's Smokefree Rockquest.

Lux, which includes Tawa College student Reuben Fraser as drummer, is the only Wellington band in the top 10 that will compete for the national title.

The four other band members – Leo Anthony and Evan Wyllyams on guitars and vocals, Reuben Levine on guitar and Abe Savage on bass – are students at Wellington High School.

Being selected as a finalist was "very, very cool," Leo says.

"We couldn't believe it. I was at school and we had a little group around us and we all celebrated. It was amazing.

"We can't believe it because last time we competed at Rockquest, a year ago, we had only been together a couple of months and we got to the regional finals and we were so excited about that.

"This year getting to the national finals is just insane," Leo says.

"We are the only Wellington band in the Rockquest national finals," Reuben Fraser says.

"It's pretty cool to be representing our community."

Lux came together as a band about a year and a half ago, and last year's Rockquest was their first ever performance.

Lux will perform at the Smokefree Rockquest national band final on Friday 18 September at the Great Hall in Wellington. Tickets are available at www.rqp.rockquest/dates-tickets.



The Wellington band Lux, who have qualified for the Smokefree Rockquest final (from left) Abe Savage, Evan Wyllyams, Leo Anthony, Reuben Levine, Reuben Fraser. Photo: Supplied.

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Changing Hearing for good in Johnsonville

Picture a person wearing hearing aids. What do you see? What do they look like? How much did they pay for them? Do they look like you?

The intuitive answers to these questions for many New Zealanders highlight the barriers preventing nearly 500,000 people with hearing loss from seeking treatment and improving their quality of life. That's 58% of New Zealanders living with hearing loss who don't wear hearing aids. With an aging population, the prevalence of untreated hearing loss will only increase if these myths are not addressed. The team at Triton Hearing Johnsonville are on a mission to change this,

smashing misconceptions, one barrier at a time. Located at 120 Johnsonville Road, our inviting space is where your journey to better hearing begins. From a warm welcome at the front desk to personalised care from our experienced audiologists, Triton Hearing Johnsonville promises a supportive environment every step of the way. Together, the team at Triton Hearing Johnsonville is committed to delivering better hearing solutions with outstanding care and support. With experience across everything from:

Free hearing checks, tinnitus management, hearing aid fittings and providing expert funding guidance.

As part of Triton Hearing's Better Hearing Guarantee, clients have access to the very latest advancements in hearing technology — ensuring solutions are tailored to individual lifestyles, environments and levels of hearing loss.

One of the newest innovations available is the Phonak Audeo™ Sphere. Designed for people who regularly spend time in social settings, Audeo Sphere uses advanced sound processing to help prioritise speech while reducing background noise. Whether it's dinner with friends, family gatherings or busy cafés, it supports clearer conversations and greater confidence in group environments.

For those seeking a more discreet, custom-made solution, the Phonak Virto™ R Infinio offers a different approach. Individually moulded to sit comfortably within the ear canal, Virto R Infinio combines a secure, personalised fit with powerful AI-driven sound technology. Suitable for mild through to profound hearing loss, it delivers natural sound clarity while remaining subtle and comfortable for everyday wear — ideal for active lifestyles or those who prefer an in-ear design. Both options reflect how far hearing technology has evolved — offering not just amplification, but intelligent sound processing designed to support real-world listening.



"Life with hearing aids is so much better. With the benefit of bluetooth aids I can hear my cellphone clearly. When I have the devices in the crickets or bell ringing stops and I can hear the birds and noises of everyday life clearly. I like the ability to control settings and it doesn't matter if they get a little wet in the rain." – Triton Hearing Client

Now's the time to give it a go! Pop in and meet the friendly team to discover the amazing benefits of the latest hearing technology.

Call 09 477 0777 to discuss your hearing with the experts or book your free hearing check.

*Terms and conditions apply. To learn more, please visit our website; www.tritonhearing.co.nz.

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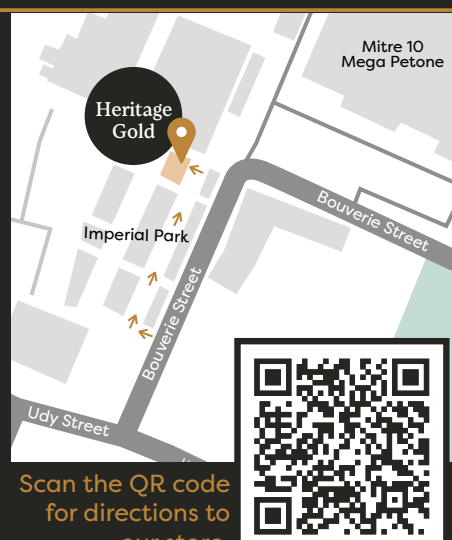
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