Independent Herald

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for Hutt South
Labour
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Thursday November 5, 2026 | Today 15-20 | Friday 15-20 | Saturday 13-18 | Sunday 12-18 | Phone: (04) 587 1660

Local wins Authors Award



By Frank Neill

Broadmeadows writer Jennifer Lane is the winner of the New Zealand Society of Authors 2026 Authors Award.

Jennifer will use the award to work on a novel.

Continued on page 2.

Jennifer Lane, winner of the 2026 Authors Award.
Photo: Supplied.

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Author thrilled to receive award

Continued from page 1.

"I'm thrilled to receive the NZSA Shaw Writer's Award to support my novel-in-progress, 'Confession'," she says.

"Writing a novel can be a lonely slog, so having a little recognition and encouragement along the way means a lot.

"The award will give me the time and space to immerse myself in the manuscript and write with greater intensity and focus.

"I'm incredibly grateful to Tina [Shaw], the judges and the NZSA for making this opportunity possible."

Tina established the $5,000 award "to encourage the development of new novels by mid-career fiction writers."

Jennifer's novel-in-progress alternates between the present day and the 1990s and is set in both New Zealand and Australia, where she grew up.

The story follows two sisters who are forced to confront a dark secret from their childhood, which took place on the eve of the millennium.

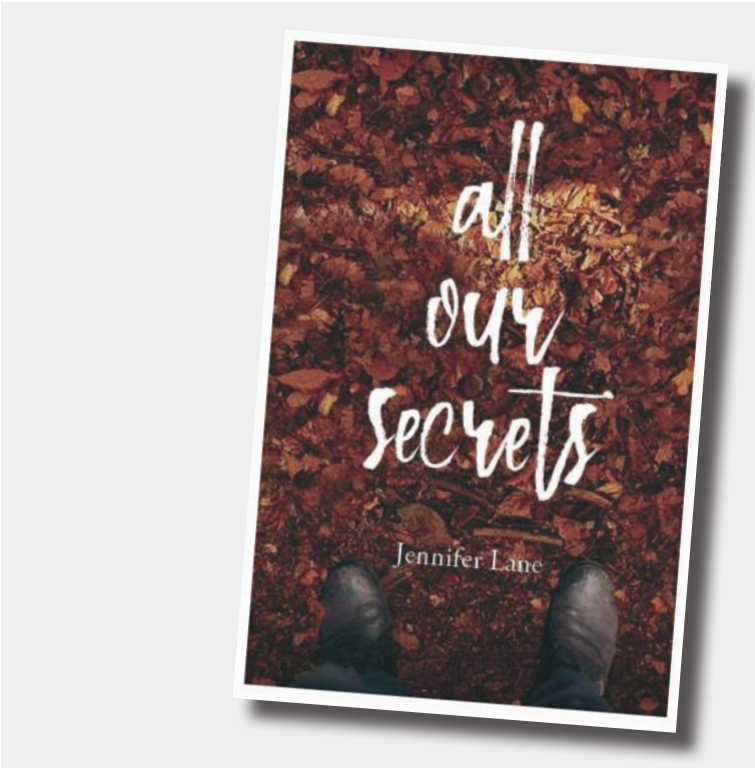
"With Jennifer Lane's winning entry, we were impressed by both the liveliness of the voice and the more demanding material the novel is prepared to take on," the judging panel of Rosetta Allan and David Hill say.

"The applications represented an interesting and varied field, encompassing historical, speculative, crime and contemporary fiction, and writing for both younger and adult readers.

"There was a good level of technical competence across many of the entries, which made the stronger applications particularly interesting to discuss."

"I'm very pleased that the award is going to Jennifer Lane this year," Tina Shaw says.

"Jennifer is a committed and talented writer of fiction that speaks to the quirkier side of family life, and I know she'll put the award to good use."



The cover of Jennifer Lane's debut novel "All Our Secrets".

Jennifer had her first taste of literary success at the age of 11, when she won St Michael's Primary School year six creative writing competition with a dramatic World War II piece 'Dominic Finds a Way'.

Some 24 years later she was one of the winners of NZ Book Month's Six Pack Two comeptition with 'Scouts Honour', an extract from an early draft of her first novel.

Her debut novel, 'All Our Secrets' (Rosa Mira Books), won the Ngaio Marsh Award for Best First Novel in 2018.

Her second novel, 'Miracle' (Cloud Ink Press), won the Ngaio Marsh Award for Best Young Adults Book in 2024. 'Miracle' was also shortlisted for the New Zealand YA Fiction Award.

Jennifer's short stories have been published on both sides of the Tasman, most recently on Newsroom – 'Four Years and Nine Months' in March this year. This story is available at newsroom.co.nz/2026/03/14/short-story-four-years-and-nine-months-by-jennifer-lane.

Jennifer graduated from Victoria University of Wellington's International Institute of Modern Letters with a Masters in Creative Writing in 2024.

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Paparangi School's Family Fun Day

Paparangi School is inviting local families to its annual Family Fun Day on Saturday 14 November, with something on offer for all ages.

The event runs from 10am to 2pm at Paparangi School, and entry is free.

All money raised on the day will go towards providing better resources for students, such as new sports equipment, re-painted court markings and science kits.

This year the committee has added new activities and performances, including a football shoot out, big dig and a bubble performer.

Much-loved favourites from past years are also back, including little drivers, a toy garage sale, a bake sale, market stalls and face painting.

The day wouldn't be possible without the generosity of its main sponsors: Just Property Management, Affinity Medical Imaging and Rainey Collins Lawyers. Their support, along with that of many other local businesses, has been vital in bringing the event together.

Home and School chairperson Annah Duncan says she is grateful for the backing the committee has received, especially in the current economic climate.

"Times are tough for a lot of businesses right now, so we're incredibly grateful that so many have still chosen to get behind us," she says.

"Their generosity has made this day possible, and it shows how much they care about our school and our community."

Principal Tracey Arthurs says the event reflects what makes the school community special.

"Events like this are about more than fundraising.

"They bring our families, neighbours and local businesses together to celebrate, connect and have fun," Mrs Arthurs says.

"It's wonderful to see everyone coming together for the good of our tamariki. It's one of my favourite days of the year."

Families are encouraged to come along and enjoy a great day out.



A fire engine ride at last year's Paparangi School Family Fun Day. Photo: Supplied.

Local teacher excels at comedy

Rāroa Normal Intermediate School teacher Guanny Liu-Prosee was runner-up at the Raw Comedy Quest National Grand Final, held at The Classic Comedy Club in Auckland on 31 October.

Guanny first started doing stand-up with hopes to become better at improv comedy and theatre, which she has been performing and teaching since 2010.

"It's a hobby, but it's also really intertwined with my career," she says.

"I've been teaching improv drama here (at Rāroa) since I started here in 2015.

"I've been the youth programme director for the New Zealand Improv Festival since 2018. And last year I founded a group called Wellington Youth Improv which offers free drama lessons for teens and puts on family-friendly shows in the community.

"I also teach public speaking and creative writing extension programmes at school, and stand-up comedy is just writing clever things and then saying them to an audience, right?

"So I thought I would sign up for a comedy school course, as a kind of professional development.

"And then I just didn't end up leaving because everyone was so nice.

"The Wellington stand-up scene is super friendly. So I just found myself always popping out to open mics at the Fringe bar on a Monday evening to hang out with some funny people.

"Next thing you know, I'm here. It still feels surreal," Guanny says.

"We're very lucky to have an amazing group of teachers with a variety of talents, whether in sports, culture or the arts," Rāroa Normal Intermediate Principal Stephen Eames says.

"This is really reflected in the opportunities available to Rāroa students.

"Guanny does great work with our drama students and our public speaking extension group, among other opportunities where students can excel."

Launched in 1995, the Raw Comedy Quest is New Zealand's biggest comedy competition, with up to $2,500 in prize money and promises of further work as a professional comedian to be won.

Heats, semi-finals, and finals were held around the country to find 12 grand finalists from Wellington, Auckland, Central/Whanganui, Christchurch/ Canterbury and Dunedin/Otago.

Readers who want to know more about free weekend drama lessons for teenagers can email wellingtonyouthimprov@gmail.com.



Guanny Liu-Prosee performing at the Wellington semi final of the Raw Comedy Quest. Photo: Amber Harris.



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Retiree refuses to 'sit it out'

Annie has always been an active grandmother. Morning beach walks, pilates twice a week, and with seven grandchildren, Annie was always ready to play. At family gatherings, she was the one on the floor building block towers, not watching from the couch. Energy was never her problem.

But at 71, she began to notice that had all changed.

When her four-year-old grandson asked her to play on the floor, Annie hesitated. Not because she didn't want to, but because getting back up had started to become difficult.

"That moment broke something in me," Annie recalls. "I'd been making excuses for months. 'Nana will watch from the couch.' But seeing his disappointed face, I realised I'd become a spectator in my own life."

The decline had been gradual. First, skipping the morning beach walks. Then the unopened pilates mat started gathering dust in the corner of her bedroom. The world she'd built around movement was shrinking.

"You don't notice you're shrinking your world until suddenly it's tiny," she says. "I went from being the grandmother who'd chase them around to the one watching from the bench. I felt like I was disappearing."

Accepting this might be her new normal was a horrible feeling.

Then a friend mentioned Koru FX over coffee.

"I almost didn't bother," Annie admits. "Another cream. I'd tried things before that promised the world. But she insisted that she had been using it herself and lent me her bottle to try."

Reading the ingredients, she recognised names she trusted. Arnica for soothing. Mānuka oil and peppermint for cooling relief.



"These weren't mystery chemicals. They were things my mother used."

The cream absorbed quickly with no sticky residue. Annie soon noticed changes.

"I wasn't planning my movements as much," she says. "Each week I noticed something else. Reaching high cupboards. Getting in and out of the car easier. Small things that add up to a life."

The real test came visiting her daughter's newborn, her eighth grandchild. Her grandson lay on a soft blanket in the afternoon light.

"I looked at him lying there, so perfect," Annie recalls. "And I thought, 'I'm not missing this. Not again.'"

Without overthinking, Annie lowered herself to the floor beside him, letting his tiny hand wrap around her finger, breathing in that newborn smell.

"My daughter found us like that," she smiles. "Me on my stomach, making faces at him. Later she told me she hadn't seen me on the floor in such a long time."

Getting up wasn't graceful. But she did it.

Three months later, Annie's back to morning walks, gentle pilates, and being present. Koru FX is part of her daily routine now.

"I'm not running marathons," she says. "But when my grandchildren need me on their level, I can get there. That's everything."

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Haunted House a huge success



One of the frightening figures at the Karori Haunted House. Photo: Supplied.



A tamariki in front of a skeleton at the Karori Haunted House. Photo: Supplied.



A scary bunny frightening people at the Karori Haunted House. Photo: Supplied.

The inaugural Haunted House, run by the Karori Lions, was a huge success.

The 31 October Hallowe'en event at Karori Park saw 205 adults and 365 younger people passing through.

For some time the queue to enter reached more than halfway across the park.

Including admission charges and the sale of lollies and glow sticks, more than $4,400 was taken at the door. After costs that money will all go to charity.

After early close of business on Friday the three levels of Karori Park Café, with all windows blacked out, were converted to an intricate maze of passages and rooms for scary clowns, witches, creepy creatures and sinister surprises and things lurking in every corner.

The horrible sounds and yowls were often drowned out by the screams of the children (and some of the adults).

Actors played their various scary roles, strange breezes and water sprays tingled spines in the dark and ghastly beings jumped out unexpectedly.

It was everyone's worst nightmares – and they loved it.

The weather held, then it almost did not as the sky blackened angrily, but the frightful happenings in the café, the Karori Lions believe, kept the storm at bay.

Amazingly, after all the horror, those exiting were highly animated and enthusiastic, with many wanting a second go.

Then it was all over around 8.30pm, and the cleanup and tidy up happened at a remarkable pace, and the café proprietors came in on Saturday morning to find the premises just as they had left them.

Miracles do happen at Hallowe'en.

With success way beyond expectations, Karori Lions are confident this will become a favourite annual event.

The haunted house was part of a very busy weekend for the Karori Lions.

First a sausage sizzle for the Kelly Sports soccer at Ian Galloway Park, followed by the inaugural Haunted House event straight afterwards, with catering for the Lions District Cabinet meeting at Life Flight HQ the following day.



A hidden garden from the past. Photo: Wellington City Council.

Hidden Gardens on this month

Hidden Gardens has returned to Wellington.

Now in its fifth successful year, this November will see six of Wellington City Council's horticulture apprentices display their lovingly tended and unique gardens with creative themes that everyone can enjoy.

As the name suggests, the gardens are hidden.

People can collect hints about their whereabouts at wellington.govt.nz/hidden-gardens and there will be more information on the Council's Facebook and Instagram channels throughout the month.

"Grab your best buds and whānau, find the riddles and crack the clues, explore the outdoors, and discover the Hidden Gardens. We're rooting for you," Wellington City Council says.

"Remember to vote for your favourites at wellington.govt.nz/hidden-gardens to go in the draw to win a night's stay for two at the historic Sextons Cottage near Bolton Street Cemetery."

Public voting runs to 30 November with the gardens remaining in place throughout summer.

The People's Choice winner will be announced in December.

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The very colourful Bee in the City. Photo: Supplied.

Bee in the city may come to J'ville

A colouful Bee in the City sculpture may come to Johnsonville.

The Johnsonville Business Group (JBG) is currently on the lookout for a place a Bee in the City could be located.

"A bright new local landmark, a spot for a photo and something to make people smile as they pass – we'd love to make it happen," the JBG says.

"We're looking for building and property owners who might have a visible garden, forecourt or outdoor space where a bee could be displayed for everyone to enjoy.

"The sculptures are being auctioned on 26 November, and some potential buyers would like their bee to stay on public display.

"Life Flight is helping connect those buyers with possible hosts," JBG says.

"You don't need to buy a bee to offer a home.

"Any arrangements for installation, costs, insurance, maintenance and how long it would stay would need to be agreed with the new owner.

"JBG could help co-ordinate discussions, including with Wellington City Council about any necessary approvals.

The JBG is aking people to who are interested to email them at info@johnsonvillebusiness.co.nz before 25 November with their property's address and a little about the space they have in mind. "A photo would be helpful too," JBG says. "There's no commitment at this stage – just an opportunity to explore something fun for Johnsonville."

This week at the libraries

'Georgina Beyer: Diamonds are Forever' will be presented at Te Matapihi ki te Ao Nui Central Library on Sunday 8 November from 1pm to 2pm.

Join Walk Tours NZ and Wellington City Libraries for 'Georgina Beyer: Diamonds are Forever'; a powerful one-hour presentation paying tribute to the late Georgina Beyer (1957–2023), presented at Te Matapihi ki te Ao Nui Central Library, Ngā Pou Ruahine (level 2).

"Blending live storytelling, historic images, archival audio and personal memories, we'll explore Georgina's Wellington," Wellington City Libraries says.

"Along the way, we'll honour some of her heroes and listen to first-hand archival audio clips that showcase her humour and resilience."

"In 2004, Georgina Beyer, the first openly transgender Member of Parliament in the world, famously confronted members of Destiny Church during the Enough Is Enough rally on the grounds of Parliament.

This was just one of many significant moments that shaped the life of the extraordinary Georgina Beyer.

Born in Wellington, Georgina went on to have an unprecedented local, national and international impact through her commitment to equality and her desire to give everyone the opportunity to reach their full potential in society.

Georgina's story is defiantly optimistic – confronting hardship and using her lived experience to change the world for the better.

Tea & Tales Book Club will be held at Johnsonville Library at Waitohi Hub on Friday 6 November from 2pm to 3.30pm.



Georgina Beyer. Photo: nzhistory.govt.nz.

Enjoy lively book discussions, share what you're reading and peruse new and interesting books with like-minded people over a cuppa.

New members are always welcome.

'Let's talk in English!' will take place at Johnsonville Library at Waitohi Hub on Tuesday 10 November from 10.30am to 11.30am.

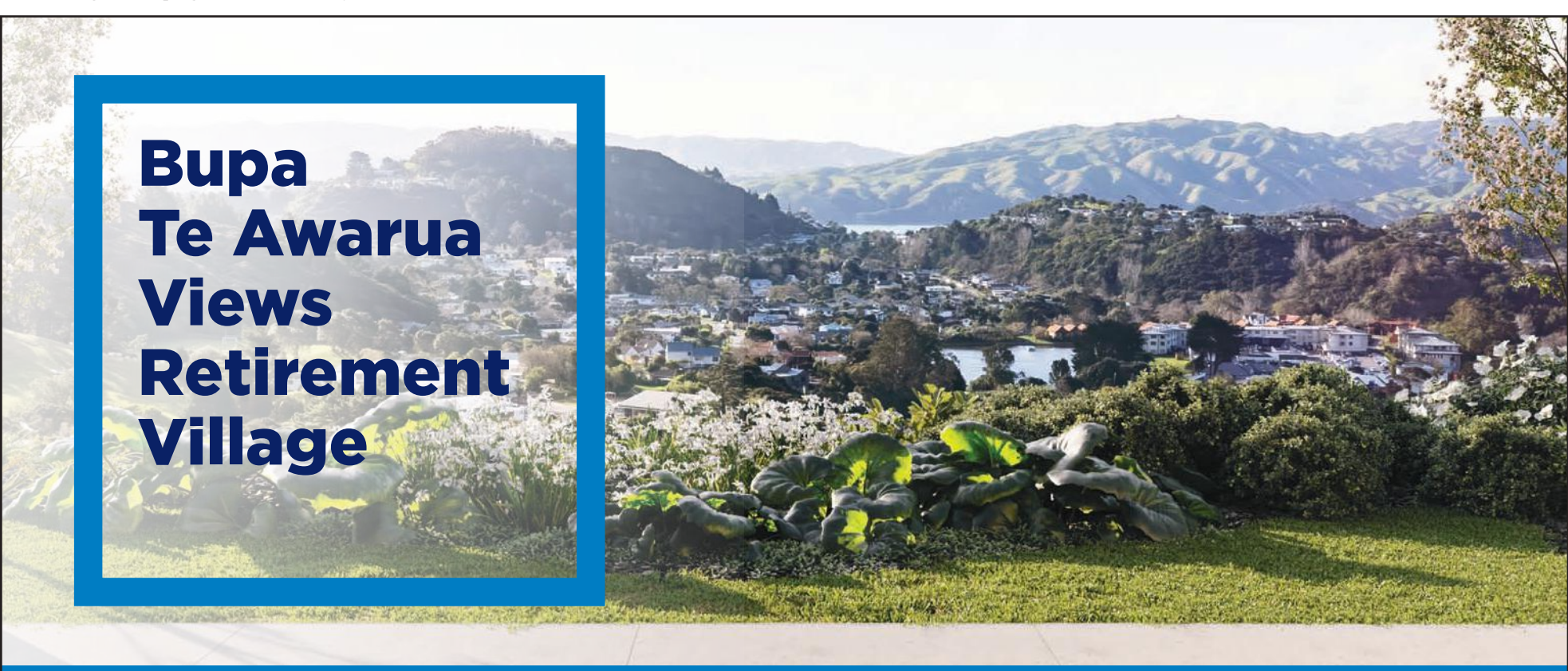
'Let's talk in English!' is a free group for people who want to practise speaking and listening to English. Join anytime, just come to the library for these weekly sessions.

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

Pop along to Wadestown Library for a casual conversation about books.

Discuss what you've been reading lately, the books you love, and those you're keen to get into, with other book lovers.

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



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Bupa

Making Johnsonville more welcoming

Over the past year, the Johnsonville Business Group (JBG) has worked to make Johnsonville "more welcoming, support business safety and bring our business community together," the Johnsonville Business Improvement District (BID) Manager, Jacqui Johnston said in her report to the JBG's annual meeting on 23 October.

"With the help of members, our committee and community partners, we have made practical improvements and continued to advocate for Johnsonville's future," the report said.

"Building on the concrete planters installed the previous year, we added 20 planted wine barrels along Johnsonville Road.

"Together, these bring more greenery and seasonal colour to our main street, making it a more pleasant place to shop, work and visit.

"We also supported murals and public art that brighten shared spaces and give Johnsonville a character of its own. The native bird artwork celebrates Aotearoa's wildlife.

"These projects bring local creativity into the town centre and help build pride in our surroundings," the report said.

"We brought businesses, community partners and [Wellington City] Council representatives together to discuss town centre safety and developed incident reporting information for businesses.

"A three-month commercial security patrol trial was introduced across the BID triangle, with the route adjusted in response to feedback.

"The trial is helping us assess how patrols can support a safer and more reassuring town centre," the report said.

"We created a private Facebook group for businesses and commercial property owners within the BID to connect with one another, ask questions and share ideas.

"The group also shares members-only events and opportunities, while newsletters and local promotion keep members informed.

"We refreshed our website and launched the business directory, helping people discover local businesses and services.

"Work continues to check and expand listings so the directory reflects our business community.

"We represented local business interests through a submission on Council's 2026–27 Annual Plan and discussions on recreation facilities, greenspace and town centre investment.

"Advocacy and development work continues on the proposed farmers market, welcome sign, greenspace allocation and suburban centres upgrade," the report said.



The Johnsonville Business Improvement District Manager Jacqui Johnston. Photo: Supplied.

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Highway resurfacing at Johnsonville



Road resurfacing is planned for State Highway 1 on 12 November. Photo: NZTA/Waka Kotahi.

Overnight resurfacing works for State Highway 1 at Johnsonville are now planned to take place on Thursday 12 November, between 9pm and 4:30am.

The work was originally scheduled for 14 October, but has been rescheduled due to bad weather on the night.

It was then rescheduled to 29 October, but bad weather once again led to the work being rescheduled.

Contractors will be repairing a section of the highway's northbound lanes between the Johnsonville offramp and onramp.

The work will improve the highway's grip and skid resistance, making the road safer for road users.

Crews will be on site from 7pm setting up traffic management. The work is being completed at night when traffic volumes are lower, which reduces overall traffic disruption.

Because heavy machinery will be used to mill and repave the road, the highway's northbound lanes will be closed between the Johnsonville offramp and onramp.

The closure will also allow the repairs to be completed faster than if they were done under stop/go traffic management.

Northbound traffic will leave the highway at the Johnsonville offramp, travel through Johnsonville, and rejoin State Highway 1 using the northbound onramp.

Drivers should allow extra time for their journeys, follow all temporary traffic management, observe local road speed limits on the detour, and take care around road crews and equipment.

Nearby residents may hear some machinery noise. Crews will keep noise and disruption as low as possible.

The work is weather dependent and may be rescheduled if wet weather or other unforeseen circumstances occur. Drivers should check the latest road conditions before travelling by visiting journeys.nzta.govt.nz/traffic/wellington.

NZTA/Waka Kotahi and the Wellington Transport Alliance say that they thank road users and residents for their patience while this important maintenance work is completed.

IHC photography display at Waitohi

IHC's Capture The Moment photography exhibition is now on display at the Waitohi Hub in Johnsonville, and will run until 27 November.

Capture the moment is IHC's photography competition for New Zealanders aged 13 and over who have an intellectual disability or an intellectual disability and autism.

Building on the success of the IHC Art Awards, Capture The Moment celebrates creativity through the lens – whether a camera, mobile phone or tablet.

The competition is a platform for self-expression, confidence-building and connection, while highlighting the unique perspectives and stories of photographers.

It helps raise awareness of the creativity within the IHC community and encourages inclusion and appreciation through visual storytelling.

This year's theme is 'Nature: the living world'.

The judges selected 30 finalists whose work is exhibited at FOTOFEST in the Hawke's Bay and now at Waitohi.



IHC's Capture The Moment photography exhibition at Waitohi. Photo: Supplied.

New direction for waste minimising

A Wellington City Council committee has unanimously agreed on a new direction for waste minimisation efforts across the city, backing practical initiatives that will reduce waste, support community-led programmes, and help prepare Wellington for longer-term waste management solutions.

The decisions, made by the Te Hoe Matua | City Strategy and Delivery Committee at its 28 October meeting, build on the Council's Zero Waste Strategy and broader regional waste reduction goals.

They focus on maintaining and enhancing existing services while exploring affordable ways to further reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill.

"The importance of this work from an environmental and sustainability perspective cannot be overstated," Mayor Andrew Little says.

"The decisions recognise the incredible foundation that community groups, volunteers and local organisations have already built.

"The Council can support these initiatives, scale up what works, and enable grassroots organisations and citizens to continue taking the lead on waste and recycling issues.

"The decision allows us to make progress on this essential area but this is not the ultimate solution."

A key feature of the package was an amendment from Councillor Jonny Osborne, which has been described as a practical set of steps that can be implemented while larger, longer-term solutions are developed.

Cr Osborne says that establishing and strengthening resource recovery networks is essential to limiting the expansion of the Southern Landfill.

"We must drastically reduce the amount of material we send to landfill, or we'll be faced with the unpalatable – and expensive – decision of extending our dump up to Zealandia's fence."

The committee's decision "reduces that risk but there is still much more to do," Cr Osborne says.

"By backing proven community organisations and practical initiatives, we're supporting the people and groups with the expertise, commitment and track record to make a real difference."

The committee agreed to continue funding the successful Te Aro Zero Waste initiative, a major expansion of the community and local organics collection, enhance Wellington's resource recovery networks, plan and build a bigger Tip Shop and larger transfer station so material stays out of landfill, explore options for monthly glass recycling collections, and support greater recovery of reusable building materials before they are disposed of as cleanfill.

The decisions respond to the Council facing growing financial pressures across the waste and recycling sector.

The current funding model relies heavily on landfill disposal revenue.

As less waste goes to landfill, revenue declines, creating challenges for funding recycling and waste minimisation programmes.

The Council currently receives around $4.7 million annually through the Waste Minimisation Levy and holds about $9 million in levy reserves. These funds will help support existing services and provide flexibility while longer-term solutions are explored through the 2027-37 Long-term Plan process.

Committee members also highlighted wider regional challenges, including the implications of planned landfill closures across the region.

The decisions reinforce Council's commitment to achieving Wellington's long-term waste reduction and emissions targets while ensuring services remain affordable and adaptable as future opportunities emerge.



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Vista Café & Bistro aims for affordable, family friendly, delicious meals with a range of dining to suit everyone.

The club is the perfect place to connect, offering activities like golf, darts, poker, dance, snooker and pool.

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

The Club has parking but is also close enough to taxis, buses, and the train for a worry-free way home.

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Three local NZCT grants

By Frank Neill

Seven 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.

Karori Bridge Club was granted $15,000 for kitchen renovation.

Karori United Tennis Club was granted $3,700 for coaching.

Khandallah Tennis and Squash Club was granted $5,000 for a lighting upgrade.

Onslow Amateur Athletic Club was granted $3,800.84 for equipment and coaching fee.

Te Whānau Tupu Ngātahi O Aotearoa was granted $23,000 for playground upgrades in Karori and Roxburgh.

The Northland School Board was granted $10,000 for turf replacement.

Victoria University of Wellington Cricket Club was granted $5,000 for cricket balls.

The trust disbursed $666,369.75 in the latest round of funding, announced on 3 November.

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

Last Night of Proms comes to Porirua

The Last Night of the Proms is coming to Porirua.

Porirua City Brass is performing a one-night spectacular of old favourites like 1812 Overture, the Sailor's Hornpipe and Rule Brittania.

Also featuring is local talent from Virtuoso Strings and the Tawa Learners Band.

The concert takes place at 7pm on Saturday 21 November at the Elim Christian Centre, 11 Heriot Drive, Porirua.

From the moment you enter the door, you'll be given a party hooter, a Union Jack flag and a song sheet, so get your singing chops ready.

Leading the chorus will be Auckland-based opera tenor Steven Moseley, who will also perform several solo items.

A former euphonium player with the Marlborough District Brass Band, Steven discovered a passion for singing after moving to Christchurch in 2018.

He is now a regular member of the New Zealand Opera Chorus and is studying towards a postgraduate certificate in music performance.

Performing a French Horn solo is one of the band's young talents – Campbell Smith.

Usually seen holding a euphonium, he will be swapping for his preferred instrument to play Mozart's Horn Concerto No 4, which he has arranged for brass band.

Leading the musical mayhem will be Nicholas Garrett.

After many years playing these tunes on principal cornet, Nicholas said he was excited about his first proms holding the baton.

"Growing up, Proms was a regular performance for our band, every year or so. I was on cornet and my dad (Kerry Garrett) was conducting.

"I must've blinked too slowly because it's been eight years since our last Proms, and Dad and I have literally swapped places.

"So now it's my turn to control the absurd antics that take place. Truly, there's nothing like a Proms."

Paediatric pop-up coming to Wgtn

A team of Neurological and Physical Abilitation Centre (NAPA) therapists will deliver individualised intensive therapy programs for children with neurological and developmental disabilities early next year.

Following two previous visits to the New Zealand capital, NAPA Centre will return from 22 February to 12 March 2027.

The venue is yet to be announced.

NAPA Centre provides multidisciplinary paediatric therapy, with intensive programmes individually designed around each child's needs and goals.

Depending on the child and the therapists available for the Pop-Up, programmes may incorporate physiotherapy, occupational therapy and speech and feeding therapy.

For many New Zealand families, accessing specialised intensive therapy can involve significant travel, accommodation and time away from home.

NAPA's Pop-Up model aims to bring the intensive experience closer to families who may otherwise need to travel to one of NAPA's permanent clinics in Australia.

NAPA Centre Australia Managing Director Paul Pozzobon said the Pop-Up would give more families an opportunity to experience NAPA closer to home.

"We have loved bringing NAPA to Wellington previously, and we are incredibly excited to be returning for a third time in 2027," Paul says.

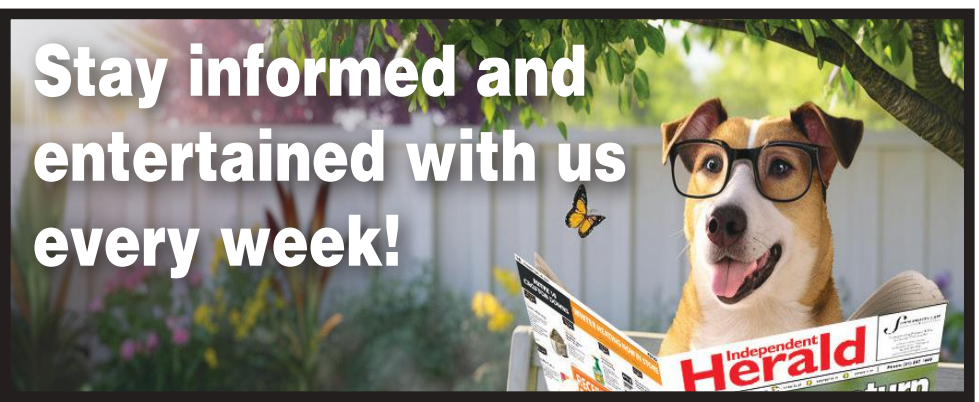
"Every child who comes to NAPA is different, so every intensive programme is different.

"Our therapists work with families to understand what matters most to them and build an individualised program around their child's needs and goals.

"We already have a wonderful connection with families in New Zealand, and we're looking forward to building on that again in Wellington next year," Paul says.

Places will be limited according to therapist availability and each child's individual therapy recommendations.

Families interested in participating are encouraged to register their interest early. Visit napacentre.com.au/pop-up-clinics and complete the Expression of Interest form.





Inside the Carrara Ceiling Johnsonville site. Photo: Murray Foster.

Local history – Carrara ceilings

By Felicity Wong

Last weekend a well attended walk around historical Johnsonville started with a cup of thermos tea at the old Methodist Cemetery.

The community has been restoring the cemetery, which dates back to 1872 and holds more than 150 people.

Methodist Church Archivist Murray Foster explained many were without headstones.

Walkers then visited the premises of the historic Carrara Ceilings company in its large building squeezed beside the motorway and the cemetery (14 Burgess Road).

The company started in Farish Street (now Victoria Street) in 1903 as one of the earliest decorative plaster manufacturers.

Plaster craftsmen arrived from England and Australia to work for the company which took its name from the Carrara marble quarries in Italy.

In 1905 it shifted to Riddiford Street before setting up a large factory on swampy, low-lying land in the south east corner of the Newtown basin (107 Daniel Street).

Business grew and many grand public buildings boasted Carrara ceilings.

In 1906 the newspaper described the (now demolished) Bank of Australia on the south-east corner of Customhouse Quay and Hunter Street as "a striking ornament for the city".

"Designed in the style of the Renaissance", the interior of the building is splendidly finished on all three floors – the fittings of Tasmanian blackwood throughout – being exceptionally fine, while the Carrara ceilings, all executed from designs by the architects, are in every instance chaste."

In 1914 the newspaper reported that the Town Hall was not using Carrara ceilings which were instead "being used in all the most up to date buildings both for walls and for ceilings, being earthquake proof, fire-proof, rust-proof, dust-proot, and vermin-proof".

Carrara fibrous plaster "has been selected for nearly all the principal buildings erected during the last few years, not only in this city, but all over the Dominion, and in no case has any earthquake done the slightest damage."

"Old style plaster, such as was used in the Town Hall, has now been superseded by Fibred Plasters of various kinds" it was reported.

In 1919 the Rialto restaurant opened on Manners Street, across from the Kings Theatre where Wellingtonians could get ice creams and supper.

"From the beautiful bevelled mirrors framed in oak, down the long vista of floor space covered with prettily arranged tables, the whole establishment speaks eloquently of spaciousness and comfort, and further acquaintance discloses a series of appointments of the most up-to-date description".

One of its "chief features is a dome, charmingly adorned with Cupids and nymphs, and the old oak decorations and Carrara ceilings lend an additional grace to the general appearance.

"On entering the 1929 remodelled De Luxe Theatre, the most arresting features which strike the eye are the two perforated domes which adorn the walls immediately above the exit boxes.

"These are of Carrara fibrous plaster, and are specially designed for lighting effects.

"Carrara ornamentation plays a most prominent part in … the largest cathedrals, public buildings, and houses of entertainment."

In Wellington's grand Railway Station of 1937 "one cannot help but admire the ceilings in the new railway station [and] the ticket lobby illustrates the beauty which can be achieved by the use of Carrara ceilings' "first-class material."

Suburbs expanded with the Mount Victoria tunnel to Hataitai and Kilbirnie and decorative plaster ceilings were popular in wealthier homes.

Houses with "Carrara ceilings" were advertised with "conservatories", a "panelled hall"; "oak fireplace"; a "pantry"; "linen press"; "nickel plated taps"; a "porcelaine bath" and "electric light throughout".

Some had "plenty leadlights" and "expensive wallpaper".

For more than a century, Wellington homes with "Carrara Ceilings" had the "latest and most modern labour devices" and "every possible convenience".

Sumptuous interiors featured "Carrara Ceilings throughout".

After 60 years based in Daniell Street, providing a huge array of corbels, cornices and decorative ceilings, Carrara Ceilings moved to Douglas Street, Mount Cook and then to its present Johnsonville site where it continues its extraordinary plaster work.

The Newtown community meantime campaigned to have the old factory site re-zoned as open space.

The Council made a compulsory acquisition of the site and in 1995 the Carrara Park was opened with a day long performance event, which morphed into the annual Newtown Street Festival.

Thousands of Wellington homes feature Carrara Ceilings, the legacy of uniquely skilled craftsmanship.

Next time visiting the historic St James Theatre gaze up above the stage to the two figures expertly created by Carrara Ceilings to complete its restoration of the theatre.

Owner Jason Henson explained the Council required more "chaste" versions than the originally designed bare breasted figures.



ACTIVE spring

A new backyard to explore: Gollan's Valley opens to the public

Locals and visitors will soon have a new place to explore, with Greater Wellington's Gollan's Valley property opening to the public by 19 December, after 60 years of being closed to the general public.

At 1,366 hectares, Gollan's Valley connects the Northern Forest and Parangarahu Lakes sections of East Harbour Regional Park, making more of the region's natural spaces accessible.

Greater Wellington Councillor Quentin Duthie said the opening would allow people to enjoy the landscape through walking, bird photography and spending time in nature.

Initial improvements would include marking existing farm tracks and installing signage.

The first planned walks include a loop connecting Butterfly Creek with Gollan's Valley, and the Coastal Tramping Track linking Burdan's Gate with Pencarrow Head.





The opening will offer a backcountry experience, with rough tracks and stream crossings. There will be no vehicle access or facilities, including toilets. Visitors can access the Valley by ferry, bus or via Burdan's Gate.

Lee Hunter, representing Rōpū Tiaki Taranaki Whānui, highlighted the area's cultural and environmental significance, including its sacred Parangarahu Lakes and rare mātātā (fernbird). He emphasised the responsibility to protect the whenua and its taonga for future generations.

Greater Wellington will continue working with Taranaki Whānui on future planning and partnership arrangements.

The property's longer-term future will be considered through the 2027–2037 Long Term Plan, including public consultation.

More information: Greater Wellington — Gollan's Valley Station

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Check them out for sale or hire at Macpac stores at 45 Willis St, Wellington; Queensgate, Lower Hutt; or 4 Jackson Street, Petone. They are all for hire at Macpac branches around Wellington, or for sale on Southland Locator Beacons website www.locatorbeacons.co.nz/shop

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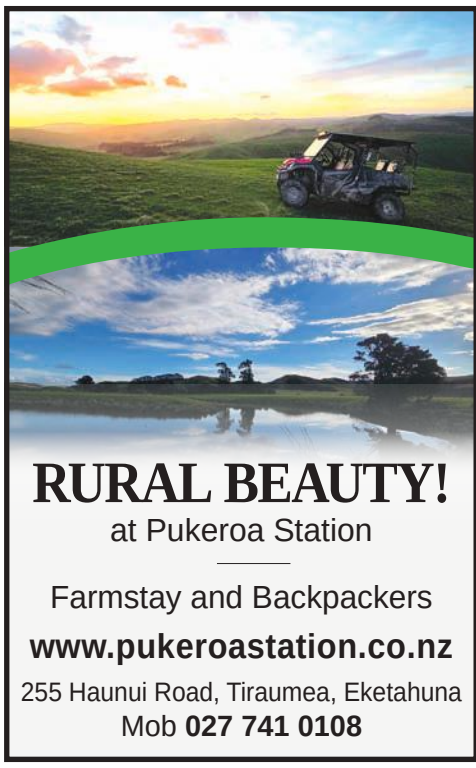


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More than just a place to stay, Pukeroa offers backpackers, families and groups a genuine taste of rural New Zealand. The relaxed lodge provides comfortable accommodation, spacious shared areas and a fully equipped kitchen – the perfect setting to unwind, reconnect and enjoy the great outdoors.

As a working sheep and beef station, there's plenty of authentic farm life to discover. Meet the animals, watch sheep and cattle grazing across the hills and, depending on the season, catch a glimpse of traditional farming activities such as shearing, docking and mustering.

Located at Tiraumea, just off Route 52, Pukeroa Station is approximately an hour from Masterton and conveniently positioned between Wellington and Hawke's Bay.

Come for the stay, leave with a true country experience.

Lake activities and thermal pools when visiting Tokaanu

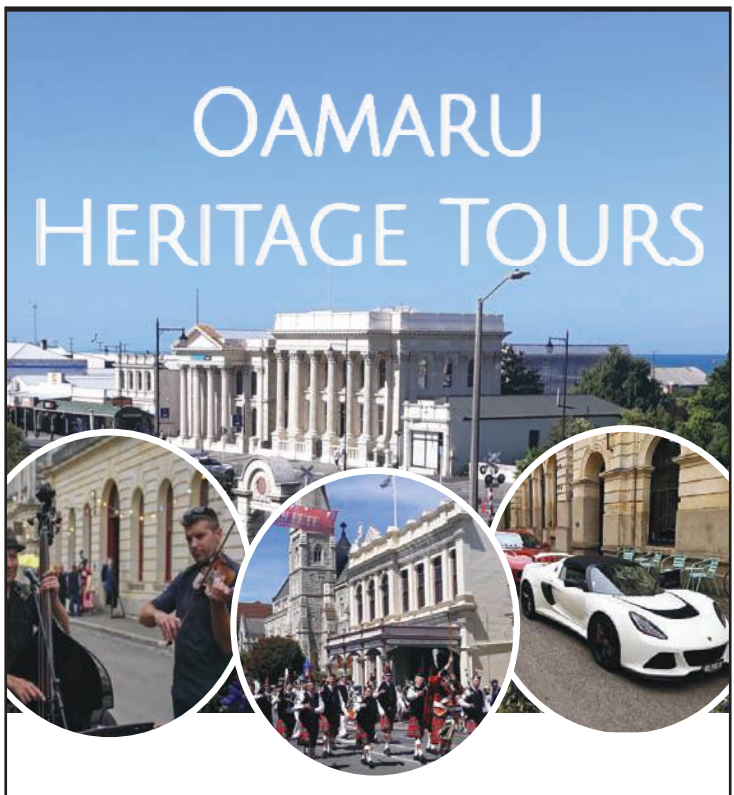
Tokaanu Lodge Motel is a unique geothermal accommodation destination conveniently located near Tūrangi and the beautiful shores of Lake Taupō. Offering a relaxing and comfortable stay, the motel features indoor mineral pools, family chalets, and easy access to some of the region's most popular attractions.

Guests can enjoy complimentary access to the motel's hot mineral pools, providing the perfect opportunity to unwind and relax after a day of exploring. The motel is also ideally situated just 40 minutes from the Whakapapa Ski Area, making it an excellent base for visitors looking to enjoy skiing and other outdoor activities.

There is a variety of passive and more adventurous attractions to experience in and around Tokaanu. The Tokaanu Thermal Walk is a free, easy, 20-minute flat loop track that takes visitors through beautiful native bush, past bubbling mud pools, steaming mineral springs and fascinating sinter basins. It offers a wonderful opportunity to experience the area's geothermal activity at a leisurely pace.

Located beside the thermal walk, Tokaanu Thermal Pools offer public and private natural mineral hot baths, open daily for visitors seeking a relaxing and therapeutic soak. Alternatively, visitors can explore the historic Tokaanu Wharf, a picturesque restored 19th-century wooden pier extending into Lake Taupō. It is an ideal location for photography, picnicking, birdwatching and casual fishing.





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Rainwater harvesting reduces demand on local water supplies, crucial in drought-prone regions. It also lessens the energy needed to treat and pump mains water to your property. Plants also prefer rainwater.

Cost Saving:
Using rainwater for tasks like garden watering, car washing, or toilet flushing can lower your water bills, particularly during drought periods when mains water costs may rise.

Emergency Water Supply:
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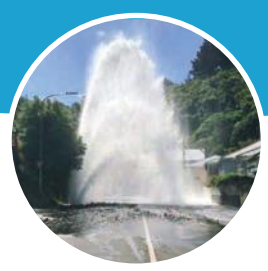
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Wadestown author in VerbCrawl

Wadestown author Una Cruikshank will feature in this year's VerbCrawl, which will take over the streets of inner-city Wellington on Saturday 14 November.

She will feature in 'Stories You Can't Trust' which will take place at Little Beer Quarter, 6 Edward Street, Te Aro, on 14 November, starting at 6pm.

Six renowned authors will each present a story from different genres at the event.

"Each of the writers involved are being asked to write an original story," Una says.

The story may be true or it may be false, and the audience will vote on whether they think the story is true or made up.

"We are trying to fool the audience, potentially," Una says.

"No-one except the author and the organiser know at the start of the night whether the story is real.

"It sounds like fun," Una says.

As an author Una is an essay writer and her genre is creative non-fiction.

"The idea is to write about things that are true but using some techniques of poetry, collage and fiction to tell the story in ways that are surprising."

Una is also the author of 'The Chthonic Cycle'.

The book "came out exactly two years ago on Hallowe'en," Una told the 'Independent Herald' on 31 October.

Chthonic is a Greek adjective meaning relating to or coming from the underworld or subterranean depths of the earth.

"A big part of the book is about gemstones, which form over a very long period of time underground under huge pressure.

"Eventually they come to the surface and into the hands of people.

"They are valued very, very highly but they have this very interesting underground life of millions of years before humans see them.

"I kind of tie these gemstones and the commerce around them into the cycle of life and death, and the carbon cycle, and so on," Una says.



Una Cruikshank with her book 'The Chthonic Cycle' at the New Zealand Book Awards. Photo: Supplied.

'The Chthonic Cycle' won the E H McCormick Prize for Best First Book at the 2025 Ockham New Zealand Book Awards.

Verb Crawl 2026 will feature untamed events across bars, fabric stores, galleries, bookshops and more.

The full programme and tickets are available at verbwellington.nz.

Expect a joyous celebration of writing, conversations, books and performance, in unexpected ways and unexpected places, the organisers say.

Twenty-five events will take place between 6pm and 9.15pm.

It's a fast-paced, vivacious festival with a focus on grassroots literary collectives, indie journals and emerging voices.

Many events blend performance and literature, with inventive new formats, making it a night of experimentation and wild provocations.

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Onslow Historical Society

Our historical centre at 86 Khandallah Road is open every Sunday afternoon from 1-4pm. Come along to learn about local history.

Writer in Residence a 'massive privilege'

Acclaimed writer Alice Miller has been appointed Te Herenga Waka – Victoria University of Wellington International Institute of Modern Letters (IIML) and Creative New Zealand Writer in Residence for 2027.

While holding the residency, Alice will work on a number of projects including a new novel, a collection of poems, and a commissioned libretto for an opera to mark the 50th anniversary of the Erebus disaster.

Alice will also work with her Norwegian partner on a series of contemporary literature from Aotearoa translated into Norwegian.

"How amazing to get to spend a year on these projects back at the IIML, where it all began for me as a writer," Alice says.

"After 15 years away from Aotearoa, I'm so lucky to come home to this.

"Especially in these rocky times, to have a year among the brilliant community at Bill Manhire House is a massive privilege."

Alice's work spans poetry, fiction, and the essay.

Her poetry collections include The Limits (2014), Nowhere Nearer (2018), which received a prestigious UK Poetry Book Society Recommendation, and What Fire (2021).



Alice Mille. Photo: Supplied.

Her new book, Here & Thereafter, has just been published in the UK.

Her debut novel More Miracle Than Bird was published in USA in 2020 by Tin House Books, and was named a New York Times Book Review Summer Reading Selection and an Editors Pick for Best Literature and Fiction at Amazon.

She has also twice been the winner of the Landfall Essay Prize.

Her other awards include the Creative New Zealand Louis Johnson Bursary, the Bank of New Zealand Katherine Mansfield Premier Award, and the Berlin Senate Stipend for non-German literature.

Alice is a graduate of Te Herenga Waka—Victoria University of Wellington, with a Bachelor of Arts with Honours in History and a Bachelor of Arts in English Literature.

In 2005 she received a Master of Arts from the IIML and in 2008 a Master of Fine Arts from the Iowa Writers Workshop.

Alice has worked for several years at the Waitangi Tribunal and the United Nations.

She has taught writing in both the US and in Europe. Alice returns this year from living for 15 years in Europe.

"Alice has an extraordinary set of literary skills and it will be exciting to see her writing projects develop over the year.," Professor Damien Wilkins, Director of the International Institute of Modern Letters, says. Alice takes up the residency at the IIML in February 2027.

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Public Notice

Te Kura o Ōtari
Ōtari School

ŌTARI SCHOOL ENROLMENT FEBRUARY 2027

Ōtari School Board of Trustees is limited in the number of places it is able to offer students as a consequence of operating an enrolment scheme, details of which are available at the school office.

The Board has determined that there are **limited places** available for children wanting to enrol in our English medium classes in 2027. Spaces are limited to the **Original Strand and are available for students in Years 1 to 8.**

If the number of out of zone applicants exceeds the number of places available, students will be selected by ballot, following the Ministry of Education defined priority order:

1. Siblings of current students
2. Siblings of former students
3. Children of former students
4. Children of board or staff
5. All other applicants

The deadline for receipt of applications is **Tuesday 24 November 2026.** Applicants will be notified of the outcome of applications before Friday 4 December.

If a ballot for out of zone places is required, it will be held on Friday 27 November.

Application forms are available from the Ōtari School office: **phone 475-3018 or email office@otari.school.nz.**

Clifford Wicks
Principal

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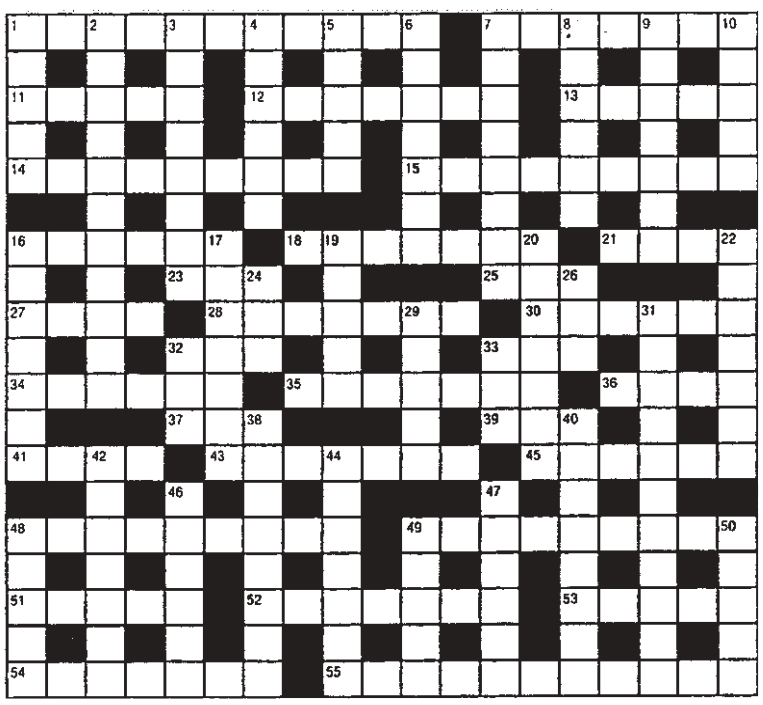
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11. Bring to bear (5)
12. Imprecise (7)
13. Bucketed water-wheel (5)
14. Chemist shop(U.S.) (9)
15. Stress (9)
16. Asian deer (6)
18. Fascinate (7)
21. Carry weapons, bear ... (4)
23. Sister (3)
25. Small flap (3)
27. Wrench apart (4)
28. Dupe (7)
30. Sharp scolding (6)
32. Two year-old sheep (3)
33. Seaman(inf) (3)
34. Haggle (6)
35. Relating to origin (7)
36. W. Samoan capital (4)
37. Finish (3)
39. Exclamation of surprise (3)
41. Loosen (4)
43. Learned (7)
45. Unborn offspring (6)
48. Can speak two languages (9)
49. N.Z. naval base (9)
51. Relinquishment(by plantiff) of a suit(Lat) ... prosequi (5)
52. Pet rodent (7)
53. Bold (5)
54. Maintains (7)
55. Exploit (11)

DOWN
1. General tendency (5)
2. Contract killer (11)
3. Deep waterhole, ... well (8)
4. Newspaper boss (6)
5. Topic (5)
6. French manor house (7)
7. Ballista (8)
8. The number five (6)
9. Fence (7)
10. Raise the spirits of (5)
16. N. American deer (7)
17. Alfalfa (7)
19. Follow (5)
20. Aural pain (7)
22. Giant cactus (7)
24. Termagant (3)
26. Barristers(collectively) (3)
29. Skilful (5)
31. Assume the character of (11)
32. Golf peg (3)
33. Liqueur, ... Maria (3)
38. Board game (8)
40. Susceptible to suggestion (8)
42. Sampsons mistress (7)
44. Quandary (7)
46. Remove shroud from (6)
47. Loath (6)
48. Official name for black S.Africans (5)
49. Drainage channel (5)
50. Act of stealing (5)

Solution
Last Week: 29 October 2026

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Big win for Karori Cricketers

By Frank Neill

The Karori Cricket first XI scored a big win over Eastern Suburbs in the first 50 over premier division 1 match of the season on 31 October.

Batting first on Kilbirnie Park, Karori scored 293 for six wickets in their 50 overs.

They then bowled out Eastern Suburbs for 161.

Alex Thompson top scored for Karori, scoring 87 from exactly the same number of deliveries.

Oscar Wilson also scored in the eighties, with 82 runs from the 71 deliveries he faced.

The team's captain Kevin Weerasundara was the next highest with 29 runs and Dimithri Gallage scored 20.

Patrick White proved outstanding with the ball, taking four wickets at a cost of 29 runs.

Puvin Anthony took two wickets for 28 runs and Ghofran Shasawar took two wickets for 44 runs.

Louis Ayres and Kevin Weerasundara took one wicket each.

Karori's next match is against Hutt District at Karori Park on 7 November, starting at 10.30am.

Onslow ended up claiming a nail-biting one run win over Taita in their premier division 1 match on 31 October.

The outcome was finally decided on the final ball of the match, when Taita lost their last wicket with a run out as they attempted to tie the scores.

Batting first on the Barry Clarke Oval at Fraser Park, Onslow scored 233 for the loss of nine wickets in their 50 overs.

Taita fell just short when they were all out for 232 runs.

Micah Conroy top scored for Onslow with 46 runs and Sam French also hit the fourties with 42 runs.

Charlie Jackson scored 30, William Julian 27 and Devan Vishvaka 23 runs.

Matthew Scoble led the bowling attack with three wickets for 50. Ryan Tsourgas took two wickets for 32 runs and Micah followed up his good batting performance by taking two wickets for 39 runs.

Onslow's next match is against Upper Hutt United at Nairnville Park on 7 November, starting at 10.30am.

After beating Wainuiomata in the 20 over competition last month, Johnsonville's premier Cricketers were not able to repeat the result in their first 50 over match of the season on 31 October. Wainuiomata comfortably won the premier division 2 match by 173 runs.

Batting first on Alex Moore Park, Wainuiomata scored 320 for the loss of seven wickets.

They then bowled out Johnsonville for just 147 runs. Xavier Crookston bowled well for Johnsonville, taking four wickets for 43 runs.

Johnsonvill'e captain Reece Edgecombe took wickets for 59 runs.

Jaiveer Tomar batted well, almost reaching a half century when he was out for 46 runs.

Roman Day scored 26 and Damian Aitken scored 20 runs. Johnsonville's next match is against the Lions Sports Club at Alex Moore Park on 7 November, stating at 10.30am.



Alex Thompson, who top scored for Karori in their big win over Eastern Suburbs on 31 October. Photo: Supplied.



United hanging out at the top

By Hamish Wareham

Since conceding a goal deep in added time in their first game of the 2026 National Women's Football League campaign to perennial powerhouses Auckland United, five in a row women's Central League champions Wellington United are currently in the midst of a four game unbeaten run.

Wellington United travelled south to Canterbury to take on the Pride on 1 November.

One first half goal from Ela Jerez, her third of the competition so far, was added to by three second half goals from Lousia Egley-Turner, Pepi Oliver-Bell and an own goal.

This moved United to the top of the table.

They find themselves up against Eastern Suburbs this coming weekend at home at Newtown Park.

Both teams are locked on 12 points and a win could prove essential for either side's hopes of making the National Women's League final.

Waterside Karori had the bye this past weekend but are back in action down south themselves facing Canterbury United Pride at English Park on 7 November.

Waterside Karori will be looking to break out of a two game winless run.

In the Men's National League, the bye a weekend earlier seemed to do no harm to Wellington Olympic as at the fourth time of asking in 2026 they finally registered a win over great rivals Miramar Rangers at the latters' home ground of David Farrington Park.

A goal at the end of both halves from youngsters Luke Stoupe and Morgan Wellsbury gave the Greeks' their third win of the campaign and boosted them up to fourth on the ladder with a home game this Saturday against Auckland United men's at Wakefield with the kickoff at 2pm.

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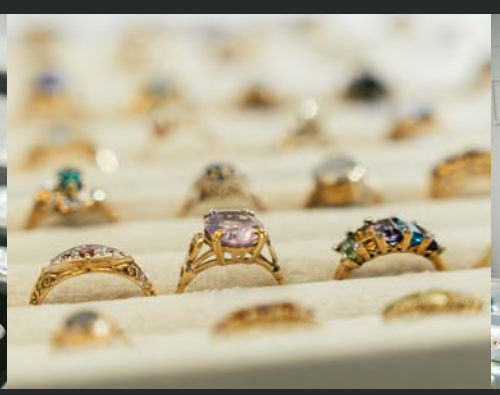
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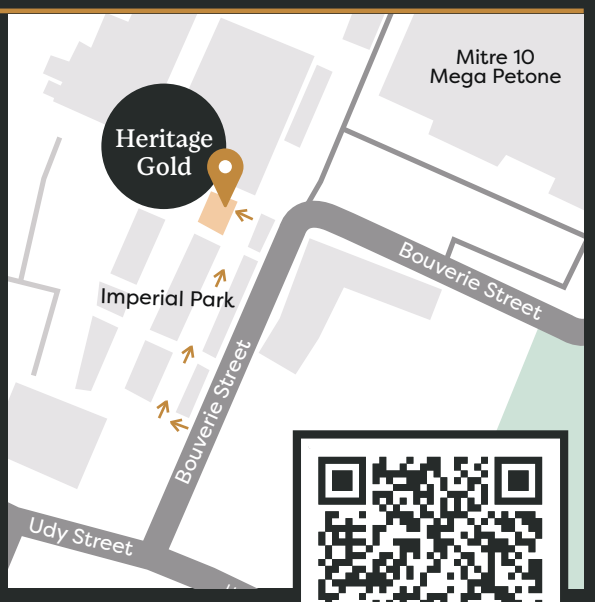
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