

Karori project moves forward

By Frank Neill

The Karori Event Centre is finally moving closer to completion, with the Karori Community Hall Trust commencing detailed design work for the remediation and fitout of the building following years of discussions with Wellington City Council.

Continued on page 2.

The Karori Events Centre.
Photo: Supplied.



A Taste of Turkey



www.kaimak.co.nz    **KAIMAK**

20 Johnsonville Rd, Johnsonville • Mon-Sat: 10.30 am-8.30 pm



MARSDEN PRIMARY

Small classes

Big

experience



28 OCTOBER

SPEND THE DAY WITH US!

www.marsden.school.nz/experience-marsden-primary

Marsden Inspiring Girls



SAMUEL MARSDEN COLLEGIATE SCHOOL

How to reach us

Independent
Herald

Phone (04) 587 1660

www.independentherald.co.nz



REPORTER

Frank Neill

herald@wsn.co.nz

027 490 3916



NATIONAL SALES

Les Whiteside

les@wsn.co.nz

021 360 008



SALES

Steve Maggs

steve@wsn.co.nz

027 765 8303



SALES

Brenda Ingram-Johnson

brenda@wsn.co.nz

021 640 152

CLASSIFIED SALES

classifieds@wsn.co.nz

Funding Unlocks Final Stage

Continued from page 1.

Trust Chair Heather Baldwin says the community has fought tirelessly to get the project across the line, and it is time to see that hard work realised.

"It's disappointing that this process has taken so long, particularly when our community has worked so hard to build this centre," Heather says.

"We welcome Council's latest commitment, although naturally, we would have liked the project to have progressed much sooner."

The building shell was completed on time and under budget in 2018 following extensive community fundraising.

It was gifted to Council in December 2022, with the expectation that Council would finish the building for the \$1.9m they committed at that time.

By 2024 Council's updated estimate had increased to \$3.3 million.

Since then, discussions on how to move the project forward have left the centre sitting empty. In May 2025, Council decided to offer the Karori Event Centre back to the trust along with \$1.9m to complete the work.

If the trust did not accept it, Council would sell the building and give \$1m to another community project.

By November 2025, working with property consultants, building professionals and contractors, the trust had identified significant cost savings and was confident the work could be completed for \$1.9m.

They subsequently engaged with Council about options to complete and operate the Centre.

In March the Council reaffirmed its commitment to provide \$1.9 million towards completing the project on the basis that ownership transfer to the trust, and that the trust take responsibility for the costs and funding of



Karori Community Hall Trust Chair Heather Baldwin, Photo: Frank Neill.

future operations.

The trust is reviewing its structure and preparing an operating model to ensure this important community asset remains sustainable for years to come.

With the funding in place, detailed design and contractor arrangements are being progressed, alongside the legal work required to transfer ownership back to the trust.

"I can't wait to see the doors finally open and tamariki and our wider community enjoying this space," Heather says.

"We're incredibly lucky to have such a passionate community willing to raise funds, spread the word and get behind important mahi like this. They deserve to see their hard work come to life."

After years of uncertainty, the trust says there is finally light at the end of the tunnel and has thanked the residents, community organisations, sponsors and supporters who have helped keep the vision alive.

The recent Karori Event Centre initiatives have been welcomed by the Wharangi/Western Ward Councillor Diane Calvert.

"I'm pleased Wellington City Council and the Karori Community Hall Trust have now reached an agreement that will finally allow the project to move forward," Cr Calvert says.

"The building has remained unfinished since 2019 and this agreement provides a practical pathway to complete the facility and bring it into community use. "Over the past year, the trust, with support from Council-funded project management and advisory work, has undertaken detailed assessment, value engineering and rescoping to demonstrate that the remaining construction work can be completed within the agreed funding envelope.

"That work has provided greater certainty around both the project's affordability and delivery. "The Council's contribution of \$1.9 million, in addition to the approximately \$930,000 previously invested by the Council in the project, is intended to support completion of the facility and enable the transfer of ownership to the Trust.

"Importantly, the agreement also provides clarity around future responsibilities.

"Once transferred, the event centre will be owned and operated by the trust, which will be responsible for its ongoing operating, maintenance and renewal costs, along with any future upgrades. "The Council will not provide ongoing operational funding for the facility. "The focus now should be on getting the building completed and opened for community use. "Council will continue to own and fund the adjacent Karori Community Centre, including the youth hub, as well as the Karori Recreation Centre, while the trust takes responsibility for delivering and operating the Event Centre for the benefit of the Karori community," Cr Calvert says.

David Smith standing as independent

By Frank Neill

David Smith is standing for the Hutt South electorate, which includes Newlands, in the upcoming election.

David, who lives in Wainuiomata, is standing, he says, "for a rejuvenated, vibrant Hutt South".

With his passion for environmentally sound communities, David would say "no" to bottom dredging of the ocean.

He would also say no to Tiaki Wai in its present form.

A third thing he would say "no" to is giving developers the green light to decide when and where to build dwellings with no off street parking "and to ignore local input before starting work on developments that will have [an] environmental impact to a real degree that is measurable on the health and wellbeing of the local population of humans, and native birds, animals, plants and healthy waterways crucial for future sustainability of life."

New Zealand, David says, "can and should become a world leader in all forms of waste management and water resources for all."

Among his other policies are removal of alcohol from supermarkets and an end to job cuts in the public sector.

For his detailed policies, people can email davidlsmith5+@gmail.com.



David Smith. Photo: Frank Neill.

Earlier this year David looked at the possibility of setting up a new political party called the NZ Party of Hope.

He ran a meeting on 24 April to ascertain the level of interest in a new party among people living in Wainuiomata.

However the meeting was very poorly attended, and David did not take the idea of establishing a new party any further.

the tank GUY

BEST QUALITY | BEST PRICE | BEST ADVICE

ARE YOU PREPARED FOR WATER OUTAGES?

EARTHQUAKE

BURST PIPES

DROUGHT

GARDEN + EMERGENCY TANKS

Factory Direct Pricing

www.thetankguy.co.nz



NEWS TIPS

Send your tips to
herald@wsn.co.nz



The Matangi train crashed near Khandallah Station. Photo: Diane Calvert.

Interim report on Khandallah train crash

By Frank Neill

The Transport Accident Investigation Commission (TAIC) published an interim report on 15 October as part of its ongoing investigation into the train crash on the Johnsonville line on 6 June.

However the interim report does not include any findings or recommendations.

The two-car southbound train was departing Khandallah Station at around 7:20pm when it was diverted onto a runaway line and into a large concrete stop block, causing significant damage to the train, the report states.

Both crew members and four passengers were injured.

TAIC Chief Investigator of Accidents Louise Cook says the Commission has so far established that the train was diverted because the signalling system detected that the track ahead was occupied.

The departure signal was set at red and the points on the track were set to divert the train to the runaway line to prevent it colliding with other traffic.

Before the train could slow and stop completely it struck the stop block at 33 km/h.

"We are still verifying evidence and pursuing several wider lines of inquiry, including why the red danger signal was passed."

A full report will be released once the investigation has been completed with final findings, causes, safety issues and recommendations.

The interim report is at taic.org.nz/inquiry/ro-2026-105.

Following the release of the report, the Wharangi/Onslow-Western and Councillor, Cr Diane Calvert, told the 'Independent Herald' that she has written to Greater Wellington Regional Council's Chief Executive.

She is asking what assurances Greater Wellington sought that the line was safe, and

what has been communicated to passengers and residents.

"I haven't yet had a response except to say that they are treating as an [Official Information Act] request," Cr Calvert says.

"I appreciate that the independent investigation takes time. But four months is a long time for passengers and nearby residents to be left wondering what has been done since."

"I would expect safety checks were undertaken before services resumed."

"But what were they? Were any changes made? What assurances did Greater Wellington receive, and what has been communicated to passengers and residents?"

"Passengers and nearby residents shouldn't be the first to feel the impact and the last to find out what's been done about it," Cr Calvert says.

"I'm not suggesting the line is unsafe. But surely, four months on, it's reasonable to expect some clear answers and reassurance."

inbrief news

Celebration

Día de los Muertos (Day of the Dead) will be celebrated at the Khandallah Town Hall on Saturday 31 October.

This free, family-friendly event will run from 5pm to 7pm.

Día de los Muertos is a Mexican tradition of remembering loved ones who have passed, with music, colour and food.

The evening will include Mexican music and information about the celebration, free hot chocolate and cookies, and colouring for the kids – they can decorate their own calaveras (sugar skulls paper designs).

There will also be a community altar (ofrenda) that everyone can add to.

This event is supported by Wellington City Council and Creative New Zealand (Creative Communities Scheme).

Our community. Our stories. Our voice.

Follow us on Facebook
www.facebook.com/IndependentHerald

Missed an issue of Independent Herald?



SCAN ME

Just scan the QR code with your phone's camera to dive in.

LOWER HUTT PUBLIC MEETING

6pm
Wednesday
28 October

Fraser Park Events
237 Taita Drive
Lower Hutt

PARTY VOTE

NEW ZEALAND FIRST

Authorised by H Howard, www.nzfirst.nz

Local schools in Shakespeare festival

By Frank Neill

Students from five local primary schools will be performing in this year's Shakespeare Globe Centre NZ's 'Primarily Playing with Shakespeare'.

They will be among around 230 children aged between 5 and 13 who will perform an hour-long version of 'Romeo and Juliet' on 6 and 11 November.

Each school will be given two scenes from the play 'Romeo and Juliet' to perform.

Crofton Downs Primary School, Karori West Normal School and Northland School will be performing at Tawhiri Warehouse Newtown on Friday 6 November from 12.30pm to 1.30pm.

Samuel Marsden Collegiate School and Clifton Terrace Model School will be performing at the VUW Memorial Theatre on Wednesday 11 November, also starting at 12.30pm.

Having been given their scenes each, the 10 schools involved this year are busy rehearsing in their own venues, with a Shakespeare Globe Centre NZ (SGCNZ) appointed co-Director/Mentor, Amalia Calder, visiting them two or three times to work with the teachers.

With Shakespeare in the Education System in various machinations now, SGCNZ helps contribute to benefit their education.

Many of the children express how much they enjoy finding out the meanings of the words and discovering how many Shakespeare invented and coined.

Then there are phrases they realise they say and hear in common usage, such as "green-eyed monsters", "fair is foul", "this is the winter of our discontent".

They have fun with the puns and Shakespeare's insults. They enjoy delving into resource material and creating rehearsal versions in modern language.

"Discovering the importance of eye-focus with each other and the audience, engaging through listening, interaction and reaction are all exceptionally important skills to gain from this young age," says SGCNZ CEO, Dawn Sanders. "Getting them off screens and instead creating the personae of their roles, provide invaluable opportunities for the



Karori West Normal School students during their rehearsal of two scenes from 'Romeo and Juliet'. Photo: Brian Scurfield, Memory of Light Photography.

tamariki at this age and stage of their development," "It was really fun. I really liked the way Shakespeare wrote and the language he used," says Annabella, one of the children involved last year. "I personally liked being able to perform on stage, but as a background character, despite not having a major role, it was super interesting to see the action on stage," says Sophia, another student who took part last year.

"There were some funny moments, others dramatic. It was what made my Shakespeare experience enjoyable." Bookings for 'Primarily Playing with Shakespeare' are available through www.Eventfinda.co.nz.



A Wellington Free Ambulance on the move. Photo: Supplied.

Ambulance's centenary next year

Wellington Free Ambulance will celebrate 100 years of supporting communities across Greater Wellington and the Wairarapa next year.

"Over the years, we've been there for people during some of life's most difficult, unexpected and memorable moments," Wellington Free Ambulance says.

"As we look back on a century of service, we'd love to hear from people in our community who have a story to share.

"Has Wellington Free Ambulance helped you or someone close to you?

"Perhaps you remember a moment when our crew made a difference, or you'd like to share

your experience of our service. We'd love to hear from you.

"If you're happy to share your story as part of our 100 year celebrations, please email us at digital@wfa.org.nz or send us a private message through our Facebook page.

"We know that New Zealanders are a community of collectors, so if you have any Wellington Free memorabilia that you might like to share – photos, uniform, equipment – please reach out.

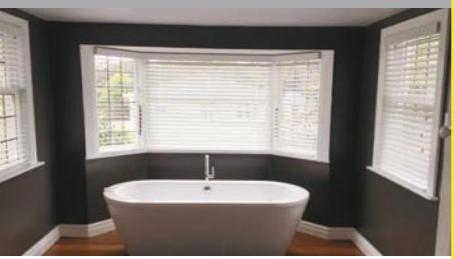
"Your story could help us celebrate the people, moments and connections that have shaped Wellington Free Ambulance over the past 100 years," Wellington Free Ambulance says.

We Have Moved

Just Blinds

Showroom:
405 Hutt Road, Alicetown, Lower Hutt

BLINDS FOR YOUR HOME AND OFFICE



- Exciting new fabrics
- Colour consultancy
- Wide range of blinds
- Installation - Repairs
- 3 year guarantee

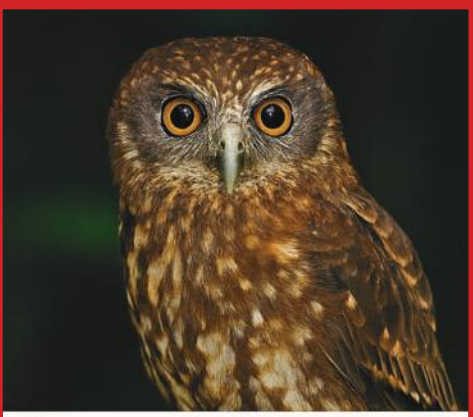
FREE measure and quote

Hours: Mon-Fri 9.00am-4:30pm, Sat 10am-2pm

TRANSFORM YOUR VIEW TODAY

sales@justblinds.co.nz

Ph: 04 472 9920 - www.justblinds.co.nz



Wise readers support their advertisers. They help keep your local news flying!

Independent Herald

Phone (04) 587 1660

SALES

Steve 027 765 8303 E: steve@wsn.co.nz

Brenda 021 640 152 E: brenda@wsn.co.nz

Les Whiteside 021 360 008 E: les@wsn.co.nz

REPORTER Frank Neill 027 490 3916 E: herald@wsn.co.nz

www.independentherald.co.nz



Some of the spectacles recycled by the Karori Lions. Photo: Supplied.

Karori Lions spectacles recycling

Karori Lions is one of three Lions Clubs in New Zealand that manage the spectacles recycling project. Used spectacles are recovered by Lions Clubs all over the lower North Island, from many optometrists and opticians, from boxes in supermarkets and rest homes, from restaurants and pubs, and from friends. These spectacles reach Karori Lions via Lions members travelling on holiday or for Lions events and all the boxes end up in the rumpus room of one of Karori Lions’ busiest members. “Working bees are held several times a month where Lions and volunteers put the spectacles through a full process – checking for suitability, cleaning in a sonic cleaner, testing on the lens calibrator to measure the prescription, labelling and packaging into boxes labelled with the type of prescriptions,” Jo Cameron, one of the ‘Specs’ team, says.

“From here the boxes are transported via a friendly transport company to Auckland, where a Lions Club organises their dispatch to Lions Clubs in Fiji and other Pacific Islands. “Lions Clubs then work with the local eye specialists to provide spectacles to the local population. “In any year, approximately 10,000 spectacles are received and processed by Karori Lions and approximately 3,000 of these are able to be recycled,” Jo says. “Many arrive with broken or corroded frames, missing pieces or scratched lenses. Our club has no facility for repairing damaged items or repolishing lenses.” Sunglasses can also be recycled, very useful given the strong sunlight in the Pacific. There are collection boxes at Thorndon New World and at the Karori Community Centre.



Three Karori Lions working on spectacle recycling. Photo: Supplied.

Your Local NEWS

Council consulting on art activities

Wellington City Council is proposing to adopt a new policy to consistently manage art-related activities at Council, including public art and the art collection. It is currently consulting on the proposal (see www.letstalk.wellington.govt.nz/draft-public-art-and-collection-policy-2026). The Wellington City Council (the Council) currently manages its public art, City Art Collection, and mayoral portraits through three separate policies:

- The Public Art Policy 2012, which covers public artworks such as sculptures, murals, and similar works in public places (222 works owned).
- The Art Collection Policy 2005, which covers artworks displayed in publicly accessible Council buildings and facilities, such as framed artworks on walls (594 works owned, including mayoral portraits).
- The Mayoral Portrait Policy 2007, which manages the commissioning, ownership, display, and related requirements for mayoral portraits (38 works owned).

These policies have helped guide how the Council manages its art for many years. However, they were developed at different times and for different purposes. As a result, they contain different objectives, assessment criteria, and decision-making frameworks. The Council’s review found that there is currently no single framework for considering how Council-managed art contributes to Wellington’s cultural wellbeing, identity, creativity, and public spaces. This can make it harder to apply a consistent approach across the Council’s art portfolio. To address this, the Council is proposing a new Public Art and Collection Policy 2026. The draft policy would replace the three existing policies with a single policy framework while recognising that public art, the City Art Collection, and mayoral portraits each serve different purposes and may require different management approaches. A draft Public Art and Collection Policy 2026 has been developed, which, if adopted, would replace the three existing policies with a single policy covering public art, the City Art Collection and mayoral portraits. The draft policy establishes shared objectives and assessment criteria while retaining flexibility to recognise that different forms of art have different purposes, locations, audiences and management requirements. Consultation on the proposal is open until 11.59pm on 10 November.

NEWS TIPS

Send your tips to herald@wsn.co.nz

David Smith

Independent Candidate for Hutt South

Help DAVID

Give HUTT SOUTH

Back its VOICE

Vote INDEPENDENT

Vote DAVID L F SMITH

to

Save our COMMUNITIES

our OCEANS

and our LIVES

FOR A REJUVENATED HUTT SOUTH

VOTE INDEPENDENT VOTE DAVID L F SMITH

DAVID IS PASSIONATE ABOUT ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND COMMUNITIES that have VITAL LOCAL KNOWLEDGE that can PREVENT COSTLY MISTAKES.

DAVID says NO to the following:

BOTTOM DREDGING OF OUR OCEANS A WELLINGTON SUPERCITY **UNCHECKED AI USE**

TO CASHLESS SOCIETY **RAISING PENSION ELIGIBILITY AGE**

NO to inaction on concerns on **VAPING**

NO TO PRIVATISATION OF WATER

NO to GST **DAVID PREFERS FIXED TAXES** on items so no where it ios bought the tax is same for everyone.

NO to allowing **DEVELOPERS WHO IGNORE ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS** and being given green light to build where they want without any consideration for the need for any **PARKING SPACES**.

DAVID WANTS URGENT FUNDING FOR more **PUBLIC** toilets and for most libraries to remain open 7 days a week until 7 PM

Contact: Ph 027 733 9134 E: davidlsmith54@gmail.com

Authorised by David L. F. Smith

Local history – Petone Beachhead

By Felicity Wong

A Wellington museum could commemorate “ambitious” projects that were never built.

In the 1960s and 70s a new Mt Victoria tunnel was routinely promised by Miramar MP Bill Young (National, 1913-2009).

“If it’s the last thing I do, it’ll be the new tunnel” he said.

Hutt South MP Chris Bishop has pushed the unfunded \$4 billion paper project along the fast track, while others prefer spending on corridor congestion at Wellington Hospital’s ED, where there’s no fast track for patients.

More welcome would be a slow lane for the unpopular idea of a “modern museum at Takina” and rather fix up the existing museum at the historic Bond Store.

A museum of “never builds” could feature the ghosts of motorway extensions up Ngaio Gorge through to Ōhariu Valley; off ramps; and lane stumps at Clifton Terrace.

There’s been many big plans.

In 1966 the Wellington branch of the New Zealand Institute of Architects (NZIA) proposed an ambitious development for Petone.

The shiny brochure “Petone Beachhead” described Petone as “uncertain of its future; held together by dogged independence ... in danger of disappearing under the creeping tide of industry ... to become a no-man’s land, on a beach adorned by little more than a wishing well.”

That’s much harsher than my happy memo-

ries of playing on the beach with grandparents looking on with a thermos from their angle parked Austin A50.

The 1966 NZIA brochure described Wellington as having “crowded its hills, and its sub-cities had filled the valleys around.”

The city in the brochure remains familiar.

“From Upper Hutt, Lower Hutt, Wainuiomata, Eastbourne and the Porirua Basin and beyond, thousands pour in and out of Wellington every working day”.

“In the weekends, these thousands ... choke the roads seeking beaches, racecourses, football grounds, zoo, museum, pubs and pictures.”

Interest in racecourses has waned but NZIA had an ambitious plan.

At the time there was a “regional plan” for a new urban centre at Judgeford (on the Haywards Hill road between Pāuatahanui and the Hutt Valley).

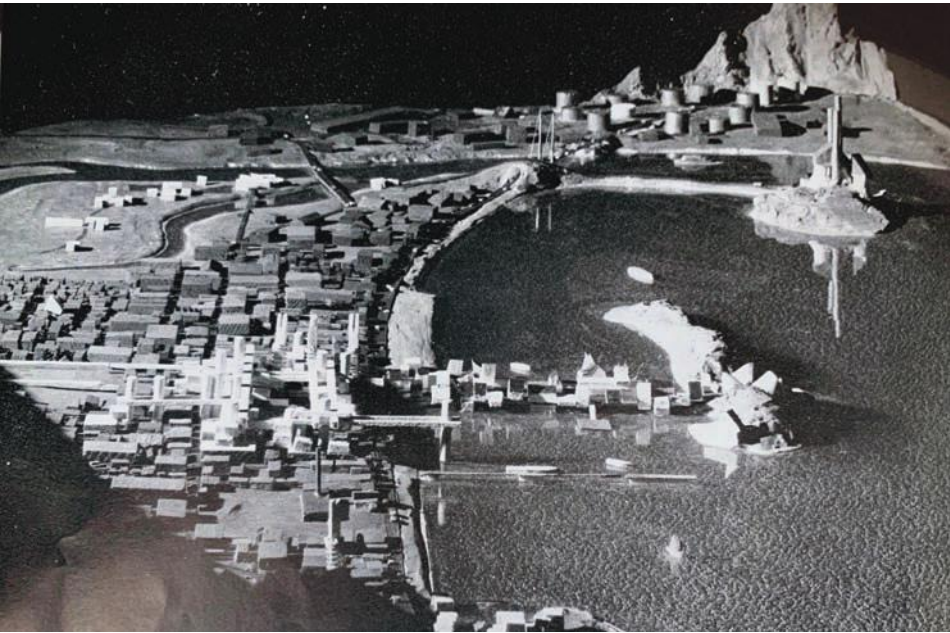
The NZIA alternative was to have a massive development at Petone beach instead.

NZIA said Petone had “arguably the best natural beach ... and best industrial land ... ripe for redevelopment”.

The proposal was to build a container port between the shallows of Seaview and the deep water off Point Howard.

It would be “an ideal spot for handling and storing cargos”, and be “cheaper and less obtrusive than the [then] proposal at Kaiwharawhara.”

A new transport link – a rail tunnel through Haywards connecting the industry of Petone



An artist’s impression of the Petone Beachhead project that was never implemented.

with the main trunk line north – was also proposed.

NZIA suggested that large scale purchases of land be made by financial organisations to lease to factory operators, who at the time were finding it difficult to obtain land to expand operations in Petone.

High values and small sections were “frustrating factory owners” trying to get more land in Petone.

NZIA called for the completion of the “abandoned road tunnel” to Wainuiomata to provide more housing.

To power all that development a gas turbine plant was proposed for the sandbanks at the mouth of the Hutt River.

That location was said to be better than the (then) proposed one “mixed up with the housing and aircraft at Evans Bay”.

A motorway along the Petone foreshore was planned.

The seafront would be “intelligently shaped” to give “character and shelter”.

In addition there would be new offshore islands that “would be accessible to all” unlike the quarantine (Matiu) Somes Island.

The new island would contain a lagoon

with a sea aquarium on it and be “a major tourist draw”.

On the north side would be a yacht club building used for “dances and parties”.

On the south site would be “a tavern and restaurant and possibly a casino”.

The other new island would be a “haven, a place to ramble in quiet privacy”.

There would be an arcade pier which would “divide sailboats and swimmers from power boats”.

“Specialty shops would extend over the motorway.”

A “regional shopping centre” would be accessible to the “thousands of people passing Petone”.

Emphasis was put on “enterprise”.

The redevelopment would all be done “right in the heart of Wellington’s roading network”.

The architects concluded their ambitious plan saying “all the authorities needed to do was consult, decide and act.

The pressure for growth at Petone waned.

These days it’s more like decide, consult and don’t act.

To keep the existing Wellington museum at the Bond Store will be just fine.

SH1 Newlands onramp closures

Drivers using the State Highway 1 Newlands onramps need to plan for overnight closures at the end of this month.

Crews will rebuild the northbound and southbound onramps, with nightworks scheduled from Monday 26 to Wednesday 28 October between 8pm and 4.30am.

“It is essential that motorway on and offramps are properly maintained,” NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi says.

“They are critical transition zones between the higher-speed highway/ motorway and the lower speed local roads. This means the road surface needs to have good grip and skid resistance.

“Road rebuilds like this involve removing the existing road layers and rebuilding the pavement from the ground up. This creates a safer, stronger road and reduces the need for future repairs.

“Because space is limited and the repairs require the use of heavy machinery, the northbound and southbound onramps will be closed on Monday and Wednesday nights, while only the southbound onramp

will be closed on Tuesday night.

“Both offramps will remain open, so access from State Highway 1 into Newlands will not be affected.

“When both onramps are closed, road users will need to use local roads to access the Johnsonville and/or Grenada ramps.

“The work is timed to be done at night when traffic volumes are lower. This reduces overall disruption for drivers.

“The detours will require extra travel time, and drivers must observe the lower local road speed limits.”

The work is weather-dependent and may be rescheduled at short notice. Drivers are encouraged to check road conditions before they travel.

A rebuild of the State Highway 1 southbound offramp at Churton Park is also planned for later this year. The work is expected to require closures over a period of up to one week.

More information will be provided once the dates and traffic arrangements are confirmed.

Charity gala to help children

Free music lessons and mentoring for Wellington children facing challenges at home or school will receive a boost at an upcoming charity gala.

The Goodtime Foundation is hosting its first Charity Gala in Lower Hutt, featuring an intimate acoustic performance by Barnaby Weir of The Black Seeds and Fly My Pretties followed by a live charity auction.

The gala will be held at Abandoned Brewery in Lower Hutt on Saturday 31 October.

The doors will open at 6.30pm with Barnaby Weir performing at 7.30pm and the live charity auction to follow.

The Goodtime Foundation works with schools across Kāpiti, Wellington City, the Hutt Valley, Porirua, Horowhenua and Wairarapa, providing free music lessons and mentoring to children nominated by their school principals because they are facing challenges at home or school.

Built around the belief that every child deserves something to look forward to, the foundation uses music to help young people build confidence, develop new skills, form positive relationships and experience the

pride of achieving something they may never have thought possible.

Funds raised at the gala will help the foundation continue delivering these opportunities and reach more children across the regions it serves.

The live charity auction will feature a collection of experiences and one-of-a-kind items generously donated by businesses and supporters.

While the gala promises a fantastic evening of live music and friendly auction competition, the real purpose is to help more children experience the life-changing opportunities music can provide.

The evening is designed to be relaxed and welcoming rather than a formal black-tie fundraiser, with smart attire encouraged.

Every ticket purchased, auction bid and raffle ticket will help support the foundation’s free music lessons and mentoring programmes.

For more information and tickets visit <https://www.eventfinda.co.nz/2026/the-goodtime-foundation-charity-gala/lower-hutt>.

Stay informed and entertained with us every week!



Highway resurfacing at Johnsonville

Overnight resurfacing works for State Highway 1 at Johnsonville are now planned to take place on Thursday 29 October, between 9pm and 4:30am.

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

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](https://www.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.



Road resurfacing, which is planned for State Highway 1 on 29 October, taking place. Photo: NZTA/Waka Kotahi.

Safety fences for Kelburn viaduct

Wellington City Council installed temporary safety fencing on the Kelburn Viaduct on Monday 19 October.

This follows "concerns about falls from height," Wharangi/Onslow-Western Ward Councillor Diane Calvert says.

The temporary fencing will remain until permanent safety screens have been installed.

The Council estimates that the permanent screens will be installed in April 2027.

"This work follows a risk assessment in November 2024

and an options report in August 2025," the Council says.

"The Council has investigated a range of potential safety measures and sought advice from engineering, heritage and planning specialists.

"The preferred approach is now progressing through detailed design and consenting.

"As the viaduct is a heritage-listed structure, additional design, consultation and consenting work has been needed before construction could proceed," the Council says.

Missed an issue of
Independent Herald?



Visit:

www.independentherald.co.nz

ROYAL ALBATROSS CENTRE

www.albatross.org.nz

Visit the world's only mainland
Royal Albatross Colony and see
the fully restored Armstrong
Disappearing Gun from 1886.



OTAGO PENINSULA - see you there!

TOURS

GIFT SHOP

CAFE



Supporting Dementia awareness in Wellington

Dementia Wellington is encouraging people across the region to raise awareness of mate wareware dementia, challenge stigma and recognise the importance of support for those affected by the condition.

The organisation provides free information, resources and specialised support to people living with dementia, their whānau and carers throughout the wider Te Whanganui-a-Tara Wellington area.

Its services cover Kāpiti, Porirua, Wellington

and the Hutt Valley, with a team of Dementia Advisors offering community-based support to help families navigate the challenges of a dementia diagnosis.

Dementia Wellington says a timely diagnosis and the right support can help people with dementia continue to live fulfilling lives, remain active and stay connected with their communities for many years.

The organisation also highlights that dementia affects more than the person

diagnosed. Carers, whānau, friends and colleagues may all need information, guidance and support as they adjust to changing circumstances.

Dementia Wellington can help individuals and families plan for the future, build confidence and remain informed throughout the different stages of mate wareware dementia.

Community donations also play a role in ensuring support remains accessible. A contribution of \$35 can help provide trusted information and resources to someone newly

affected by dementia, often at a time when support is needed most.

Donations can be made directly from bank to bank by scanning the organisation's QR code, avoiding credit card fees.

People seeking assistance for themselves or someone they know can contact Dementia Wellington's free helpline on 0800 DEMENTIA (0800 336 368).

The organisation's vision is to inspire people to live well with mate wareware dementia, supported, informed and connected to their communities.

A leafy wellness retreat in Karori

Nestled among the natural beauty of Karori, The Sacred Firebird offers more than a wellness retreat – it is a place to pause, reconnect and rediscover a sense of inner calm.

Founded by Crystal Mihinui, a Reiki Master, Sound Healing Practitioner, Music Therapist and classically trained pianist with more than 30 years of experience in music and sound, the centre at her home studio brings together ancient practices and deeply personal care.

From crystal singing bowls, Reiki and meditation to forest bathing, women's circles, Lomi Lomi massage and nature-based experiences, each session is thoughtfully shaped around the people taking part.

Journalling, oracle cards, cacao, blue lotus tea and shared kai can add further layers to the experience.

Crystal's work also reaches beyond traditional wellness spaces, including sound healing for older people, people with disabilities and residents living with dementia.

Animal healing is another important part of Crystal's work, reflecting her belief that animals can also benefit from calm, nurturing and energy-based well-being experiences.

At its heart, The Sacred Firebird is about transformation, resilience and renewal – embodying its guiding philosophy: "Reconnect · Restore · Remember."

Kiwis helping other Kiwis beat prostate cancer

The Prostate Cancer Foundation of New Zealand - Te Kāhui Mate Pukupuku Repe Tātea o Aotearoa Manatōpū, (PCFNZ) provides vital support, education and information to individuals, their families and whānau across Aotearoa New Zealand affected by prostate cancer.

PCFNZ provides a comprehensive portfolio of free in-person and remote support services to help those living with

prostate cancer, at any stage of diagnosis, treatment and survivorship.

PCFNZ is also dedicated to reducing the impact of prostate cancer through raising awareness, funding NZ-based research and advocating for improved standards of care and investing in research that raises the understanding of prostate cancer and its effects on men, their families and our communities.

Cherries – helping support heart health and joint mobility

Diet plays a huge role in our health with foods that offer specific health benefits referred to as functional foods. Cherryvite's Montmorency tart cherries is one such food.

As one of nature's richest sources of antioxidants and queritrin, it helps to fight your body's free radicals, and support heart health and joint mobility, reduce stress and enable a better night's sleep.

Montmorency tart cherries are warmed and pressed to remove the cherry juice. Cherry juice is concentrated to 68° Brix by removing water. Cherryvite products contain no additives, preservatives or colouring

agents and are 100% natural.

Tart cherry juice concentrate can be reconstituted into a single-strength beverage.





WE ARE BUYING NOW!

**UNWANTED OR BROKEN GOLD & SILVER
JEWELLERY, COINS, WAR MEDALS,
OLD BANKNOTES AND VINTAGE WATCHES**

DO YOU HAVE ANY OF THE ABOVE?

**GETTING OLDER? NEED TO START GETTING RID OF THINGS?
THEN ASK YOURSELF THESE QUESTIONS...**

- Shouldn't I be selling now at these extremely high gold and silver prices?
- Isn't money better off in my pocket rather than having things sitting around?
- Will the kids or grandchildren really want or appreciate them?
- Shall I give them the items or give them the money instead?
- Will a museum really want them considering how much they already have in storage?
- Will they be secure in an earthquake or other disaster?
- Do I have the expertise or inclination to try and sell them myself on the internet?

YOU KNOW THE ANSWERS – WE WANT TO BUY – SO CASH IN NOW!

JOHN BERTRAND (COLLECTABLES) LIMITED

LEVEL 1, HARCOURT'S BUILDING
215 MAIN ROAD, TAWA
WELLINGTON 5028

CALLERS BY APPOINTMENT ONLY PLEASE – AMPLE FREE STREET PARKING
Please bring suitable photo ID and bank account details

Tel: 04 232 9832 Or email: info@bertrand.co.nz



JOHN BERTRAND™
COLLECTABLES LTD

John Bertrand - The Trusted name in Numismatics Since 1965



Members of the Australasian
Numismatic Dealers Association
and the New Zealand Numismatic
Dealers Association





NOVEMBER

The warmer weather is now in sight and with it comes the weeds, pests and diseases. The focus for this month is keeping these under control and the best way to do that is to make sure your plants are well watered and well fed.

 PLANTING

- ✓ Roses
- ✓ Tropical Plants
- ✓ Subtropical Fruits
- ✓ Citrus
- ✓ Summer Veggies
- ✓ Salad Crops
- ✓ Clematis

 MAINTENANCE

- ✓ Mulch
- ✓ Spray for Pests
- ✓ Protect Brassicas against Caterpillars & Moths
- ✓ Prune & Feed Roses

 GARDEN TIPS & TRICKS

FRUIT

- ▶ Feed all fruiting crops.
- ▶ What to plant: Raspberries, strawberries, blueberries, blackberries, boysenberries, feijoas, lemons, oranges, mandarins, limes, passionfruit, grapes, kiwifruit and tamarillos.

VEGETABLES

- ▶ Existing tomato plants will need a little care, ensure they are staked, laterals are taken off and they are fed with tomato food.
- ▶ Keep planting salad crops for summer harvesting.
- ▶ Finish planting summer vegetables and herbs such as chillies, courgettes, cucumbers, beans and basil.
- ▶ Now is the time to plant a second crop of potatoes.
- ▶ What to plant: Tomatoes, cucumbers, capsicums, eggplants, lettuce, corn, spinach, spring onions, beetroot, celery and cabbage. Stagger planting over four to six weeks for a continuous harvest through summer.

FLOWERS

- ▶ Plant your colour for Christmas and summer in pots.
- ▶ Plant to attract bees into the garden.
- ▶ Liquid feed all flowering annuals and perennials with an all-purpose fertiliser.
- ▶ Spray roses with insect and fungus control products suitable for roses and feed with a rose specific fertiliser. Reduce the spread of disease by removing any dead leaves and clippings from around the base.

JOB

- ▶ Water your pots more in the warmer weather and use a water retention product to retain the moisture.
- ▶ Remove weeds as soon as they appear. This is where pests hide and weeds take valuable nutrients and water.
- ▶ Watch out for pests and take action as soon as possible to prevent them becoming a larger problem.
- ▶ Water deeply less often rather than a little bit every day.
- ▶ Apply lawn fertiliser and water in well.
- ▶ Avoid mowing your lawn too short, longer grass shades roots and helps prevent drying out.

KEY POINTS

- ▶ Existing tomato plants will need a little care, ensure they are staked, laterals are taken off and they are fed with tomato food.
- ▶ Keep planting salad crops for summer harvesting.
- ▶ Finish planting summer vegetables and herbs such as chillies, courgettes, cucumbers, beans and basil.
- ▶ Watch for insects on roses. Spray them if necessary.
- ▶ Feed all fruiting crops, flowering annuals, perennials and flowering shrubs.
- ▶ Plant your colour for Christmas and summer in pots.
- ▶ Plant to attract bees into the garden.
- ▶ Now is the time to plant a second crop of potatoes.



MITRE 10
EASY AS



Scan to view the November gardening checklist



GOZNEY®
New season BBQs & pizza ovens in stock now!

Big Range, Low Price, Local Advice. Nice.

Gardening & HOME LIVING

Churmow will take care of your garden

A tidy lawn and a well-maintained garden can transform any property, and Churmow is helping homeowners across the Hutt Valley, Wellington, Porirua and the Kāpiti Coast achieve just that.

Run by Blake Robinson, Churmow offers a range of outdoor maintenance services to keep properties looking their best. From regular lawn mowing and landscaping to clearing overgrown sections, trimming hedges and tree removal, no yard needs to stay untidy for long.

The business also offers stump grinding, minor weeding, small fence repairs and green waste removal, helping create cleaner, safer and more inviting outdoor spaces.

Ready to refresh your property? Contact Churmow through Facebook or email getyourchurmow@gmail.com for a quote today.



Pro Waterblasting Wellington, Wellington's trusted residential and commercial company

Tōtika is New Zealand's nationally recognised health and safety prequalification scheme, developed by CHASNZ to establish a consistent industry standard. It eliminates the need for contractors to undergo multiple, repetitive audits for different clients by recognising core H&S capabilities through accredited assessment partners.

At Pro Waterblasting Wellington, we believe professional exterior cleaning should deliver more than just great results – it should be backed by strong systems, quality workmanship, and a commitment to safety. That's why we are proud to be Tōtika-accredited, meeting New Zealand's nationally recognised health and safety prequalification standard.

Developed by CHASNZ, Tōtika provides clients with confidence that contractors have robust health and safety systems in place and operate to a consistent, independently assessed standard. This accreditation allows us to work seamlessly with commercial clients, property managers and organisations that require proven health and safety capability. Alongside our commercial work, we provide expert exterior cleaning services including house washing, commercial building washing, roof moss and mould treatments, gutter cleaning, window cleaning, deck restoration, driveway and concrete cleaning, and fence washing.

Does your property need a tidy up? Or do you need Stump Removal?

Phone **0211159831** or email: getyourchurmow@gmail.com

Contact us for a **free quote today**

Green waste removal

Just relax while we revitalise your property

PROWaterblasting
#1 Professionals in Water Blasting and Exterior Cleaning
Call **022 527 8526** FOR AN INSTANT QUOTE

Deck Wash & Restoration

Path & Driveway Cleaning

Fence & Retaining Wall Wash

Patio Cleaning

House Washing

Commercial Building

Moss & Mould Treatment

Gutter Cleaning & Repair

www.prowaterblasting.co.nz

ARE YOU PREPARED FOR WATER OUTAGES?

EARTHQUAKE

BURST PIPES

DROUGHT

GARDEN + EMERGENCY TANKS Factory Direct Pricing

www.thetankguy.co.nz

Solar power complaints surging

New Zealanders considering solar power are being urged to do their homework before signing up, as complaints to Utilities Disputes continue to surge.

Solar complaints to the independent dispute resolution body have increased fourteenfold in just four years, from 58 in 2022-23 to a projected 829 this year.

Solar, while still a minor electricity provider here, now makes up more than 5% of all electricity complaints and half of all complaints accepted for formal investigation.

"We are seeing a clear pattern of consumers who feel let down," says Utilities Disputes Commissioner Neil Mallon.

"The most common issues involve customer service failures, billing

problems, and most concerning, marketing complaints where promised savings have not been delivered."

Utilities Disputes data shows that 86% of solar marketing complaints relate to a failure to realise promised returns, while 68% of solar complaints involve customer service issues such as companies failing to act as agreed.

Metering problems are adding to consumer frustration, with 219 solar metering complaints in the past year alone, from missing export credits to months-long delays in getting meters installed and activated.

"Solar is a great technology, but the sales and service experience is not meeting the standard consumers have a right to expect,"

Neil says.

"Too many people are entering into long-term financial commitments without fully understanding the costs, the risks, or what happens if things go wrong."

"We are now at a tipping point for solar. With so many consumers now investigating a switch to solar, it's never been more important for people to understand what they are buying and for providers to be upfront with their marketing."

"To help consumers navigate solar we are releasing ten top tips today which can also be used by providers so everyone can be on the same page understanding the benefits, the risks and what to look out for."

The guidance covers what to check before committing, what

to look for in a contract, and how to manage a solar setup once it's installed.

The top seven tips are:

1. Read the free EECA guidance and check out trusted organisations such as SEANZ before making any decisions.

2. Review your current electricity plan and usage to understand what you need.

3. Check whether your roof is suitable and your meter is compatible.

4. Scrutinise any assumptions made about savings and promised returns. Ask what happens if you switch retailer or plan.

5. For subscription agreements, find out what termination and removal costs will be. These can run into tens of thousands of dollars.

6. Contact your current retailer early. Export rates can vary based on system size.

7. Keep records and know your ongoing responsibilities.

"As the lead provider of independent utilities dispute resolution we are uniquely placed to understand the issues and concerns for consumers on solar as well as providers."

"Our message to consumers is simple. Do your homework thoroughly. And if you have a solar complaint, get in touch with us. We are free, independent, and we can make binding decisions. Don't wait, we're here to help," Neil says.

For more information visit www.udl.co.nz/en/our-publications-and-schemes/solar/.



Help Fill the Bucket for animals in need

This October, help Fill the Bucket for vulnerable animals across New Zealand.

It takes a village...

Caring for New Zealand's most vulnerable animals has always been a team effort.

So long as animals are in need, SPCA will always be here to help them through rescue, rehabilitation and recovery - but we can't do it without you.

You can help to Fill The Bucket from 26 October to 1 November 2026 by donating online or giving to one of our dedicated volunteer collectors in the community.

When you see an SPCA volunteer collecting on the streets on 30 and 31 October, please give generously to help animals in need.

Can't make it to a collection site? You can still Fill the Bucket online from anywhere in New Zealand.



DESIGN & BUILD HOMES LTD
Comprehensive Design, Quality Assurance

Specialists in Land Development and Subdivisions



"We know how important your new build is to you - we've been there ourselves so we understand what's involved."

House and Land Packages or Design Your Own

04 979 6523 or 021 90 99 55

info@designandbuildhomes.co.nz

www.designandbuildhomes.co.nz



Active Feet Podiatry

"Caring for your feet"



Ph: 04 473 8696

Level 2, 85 The Terrace,
Wellington 6011

(opposite Solnet House and Aurora Terrace).

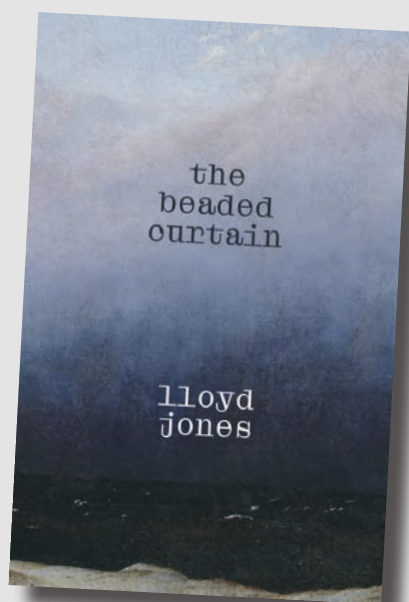
Services We Offer Include:

- Sports injuries
- Family Foot Care
- Verrucae
- Skin and Nail problems
- Orthotic Services

Dr. Tim Halpine DPM Caring for your feet

Email: Tim.Halpine@xtra.co.nz
www.activefeetpodiatry.com





The cover of 'The Beaded Curtain'.

This week at the libraries

Author Lloyd Jones will be in conversation with Claire Mabey at Te Matapihi ki te Ao Nui Central Library on Friday 23 October from 12.30pm to 1.30pm.

"Join us for an afternoon with one of the leading lights of Aotearoa's literary scene, author Lloyd Jones," Wellington City Libraries says.

"He will be in conversation with multi award-winning, bestselling author Claire Mabey to talk about his autobiographical memoir, 'The Beaded Curtain'."

The fabulous Carmen Rupe: Tea, toasties and trade will take place at Te Matapihi ki te Ao Nui Central Library on Sunday 25 October from 1pm to 2pm.

"Internationally renowned entrepreneur, entertainer, madam and Mayoral candidate Carmen Rupe was based in Wellington for less than 15 years, but has left a rich legacy of memories and inspiring moments that are still talked about.

"Join Walk Tours NZ and Wellington City Libraries as we trace Carmen's Wellington years (1967-1980)."

Blending live storytelling, historic images, archival audio and personal memories, this rainbow local history presentation explores Carmen's Wellington, including Le Balcon, Carmen's International Coffee Lounge, The Peacock, Cleopatra's Coffee Lounge, Carmen's Bazaar, The Gazebo massage parlour, The Cottage brothel and Carmen's Curio Shop.

Learn about Carmen's landmark 1966 court case, her race to become Mayor of Wellington in the 1970s, and how she supported and offered a safe harbour to Wellington's Takatāpui LGBTQIA+ Rainbow communities.

Digitisation launch: Capital Times, Agenda Magazine and W5 on Wellington City Recollect will take place at Te Matapihi ki te Ao Nui Central Library on Wednesday 28 October from 5.30pm to 7pm.

Wellington City Libraries invites the publishers, contributors and members of the public to attend a celebration marking the online launch of the Wellington Recollect digital heritage platform of three digitised historic Wellington publications reflecting Wellington's past; Capital Times, Agenda and W5.

Capital Times was a free weekly newspaper that ran for more than 30 years.

It emerged out of an earlier publication called Capital Visitor which began in 1974 to help tourists discover the city's attractions, restaurants and hospitality venues.

In 1982 it changed its name to Capital Times and slowly shifted from being a visitor's guide to a weekly community newspaper.

In 1990 the publication was purchased by



Author Lloyd Jones. Photo: Supplied.

John Bristed and his partner Alison Franks who became the 'managing editor'.

Over the next 22 years, Franks steered the newspaper towards covering the local arts scene and it soon became the place to find out what was happening in the city.

Pam Skogstad was appointed as sales manager and for the best part of two decades. She and Gaye Matheson kept the paper viable through selling advertising.

Jenny Phillips was appointed the first editor and she was followed by a succession of others (including notable writers Steve Braunius and David Cohen) who used the opportunity to build up experience and develop their careers in journalism and publishing.

Agenda was founded by John Dow and his partner Gayle Page in late 1984 with the first issue being printed in early 1985.

Over the next five years the magazine became a quintessential part of the city's 'fourth estate', providing news, reviews, event listings and keeping Wellingtonians informed with what was happening in their city during a period of enormous change.

W5 was a short-lived magazine published over 1983 and 1984.

Unlike Capital Times and Agenda which were issued as 'freebies', W5 had a modest cover price of \$1 but included feature-length investigative articles from some of Wellington's best new writers and was edited by the journalist and local historian, David McGill.

This event is part of Wellington Heritage Festival.

"Nau mai -- all welcome, and we look forward to sharing these local publications with you on our Wellington Recollect platform, newly available for browsing and exploring," Wellington City Libraries says.

LOCAL TRADES TRUST A LOCAL



Try the Independent Herald
- we get results!

Phone **BRENDA** today on **021 640 152** or email **brenda@wsn.co.nz**

BUILDERS

BUILDER

LBP

Qualified for:
Alterations,
Additions
Refurbishment,
Repairs

Ph Allan Johnstone:

973 1239
027 450 3239



BUILDERS



- Professional • reliable
- high-quality work
- licensed building practitioners

Our services include home renovations, alterations, kitchens, bathrooms, maintenance and repairs. No job is too small.

Ph: 04 390 1351

www.citybuilders.co.nz

Call in the Experts



CARPET & VINYL

David & Maria's

CARPET & VINYL

SALE NOW ON

For A No Obligation FREE MEASURE & QUOTE

7 Strathmore Ave, Strathmore Park, Wellington

Ph: (04) 388 7969

E: dmcarpets@gmail.com

ADVERTISING

Book yours with

BRENDA

today on **021 640 152**

or email at

brenda@wsn.co.nz

PAINTER

Graham's Painters

Exterior / Interior

Experienced tradesmen and large team

Spring is here!!!

Now is the time to get your House Exterior painted

Available for Interior work too.

~ Pensioner Discounts ~

Email: grahampaintersnz@gmail.com

www.grahampainters.nz

Ph (04) 564 9202 or 021 183 9492

PAINTER



CeltKiwi Contracting

ESTAB. 2019



Painters - Residential / Commercial
High Attention to Detail (Internal & External)
Including Roofs / Fences / Gates - we paint anything, properly
(with all Trades-Men available as/when required)

Contact us today for Professional Assessment,
with Free Quotation or Estimate.
We are ready to help you get it done -- and have it done properly.

Call today: Gilly **021 123 8369**

Please phone me if any queries, or text me
& I can call you right back.

The only reason you'll call us back is to
request another job.

PLUMBING

CRAFTSMAN PLUMBER

Certified Plumber and Drainlayer
Graham Plumbing & Drainage Ltd

Plumbing. Drainlaying. Roofing and Spouting. Blocked drains. Burst pipes. Repairs and Leaks. Black Dux Qest pipe replacement. Maintenance. Kitchens. Bathrooms. Replacing hot water cylinders.

Phone **027 4574 999** or **970 2409**

Email: jokagraham3@gmail.com

RUBBISH

RUBBISH & GREEN WASTE REMOVAL



Whiteware, appliances, furniture & recyclables
Free quotations
Ph Sam on

021 0252 7361

Samsrubbishnz@gmail.com No job too small!!

WHAT'S ON...

Haunted House at Karori Park Dare to be scared!

Friday 30 October from 6.30pm Weird, creepy, spine tingling Age 8+ www.karorilions.co.nz facebook.com/karoriLionsClubInc

Follow us on Facebook

www.facebook.com/IndependentHerald

Trades & Services

Graham's Painters

Get your House Exterior and Interior painted!
Experienced tradesmen and large team

~ Pensioner Discounts ~

E: grahampaintersnz@gmail.com
W: www.grahampaintersnz.nz
Ph: (04) 564 9202
021 183 9492

Buy LOCAL Support LOCAL

Invest in your community!

Funeral Directors

We make a difficult time a little easier

Share your funeral wishes with Eva at The Wilson Funeral Home



Karori
142 Karori Road
(by appointment only)
04 476 5292

Newtown
375 Adelaide Road
04 389 6069

THE
Wilson
FUNERAL HOME

Eva Rippon: eva@twfh.co.nz | twfh.co.nz

Funeral Directors

Guardian Funeral Home



Professional, personal funeral care in Wellington North

Johnsonville
4 Moorefield Road
04 477 4025

Tawa
157 Main Road
04 232 1588

Open by appointment only



gfh.co.nz

We make a difficult time a little easier

Consultation on rating system

Wellingtonians are being invited to help inform the future of the city's rating system as Wellington City Council begins engagement on a review of its rating policies.

The Council is proposing five changes:

1. Changing how they calculate rates, from a capital value-based system to a land value-based system.

2. Changing the commercial differential over six years, from \$3.70 in rates for commercial properties for every \$1 of household rates, to \$3 for every \$1 of household rates.

3. Increasing the area where the vacant land and derelict building rate can be charged.

4. Introducing a rates differential for the new water services provider Tiaki Wai.

5. Simplifying the rates remissions for earthquake prone buildings.

The consultation opened on 19 October and will close on 15 November.

"Rates affect everyone, so we want everyone to know about these proposals, read the information, and give us their feedback," Te Taurapa Council Planning and Finance Committee Chair, Cr Diane Calvert says.

"This review is not about the total amount of rates the Council collects, it's about the proportion collected from different types of ratepayers.

"Some of the proposals change how rates are allocated, which may increase rates for some properties, and reduce rates for other properties."

The consultation web page (www.letstalk.wellington.govt.nz/rating-policies-review)



Cr Diane Calvert. Photo: Supplied.

includes an online capital value/land value rates comparison tool.

Ratepayers can use this tool to compare

their current rates under the capital value rating system with an estimate of their rates under a land value rating system.

Mayor Andrew Little also recommends all Wellingtonians take part in the consultation.

"This is really important as this is the way we levy rates across the city, our residents and businesses," he says.

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

"These proposals affect everyone in Wellington, so everyone should have their say."

No decisions about the proposals have been made yet.

The Council will review all the feedback in December before deciding which proposals proceed to detailed development.

The detailed proposals will be open for formal public consultation as part of the draft 2027-37 ten-year budget (Long-term Plan) engagement in April.

The Council may decide to proceed with all, some, or none of the proposals, or make other changes following this initial consultation.

Situations Vacant

ADVERTISING SALES CONSULTANT WANTED

Community newspaper sales. Work from home via phone and email. Hours flexible. Commission based.

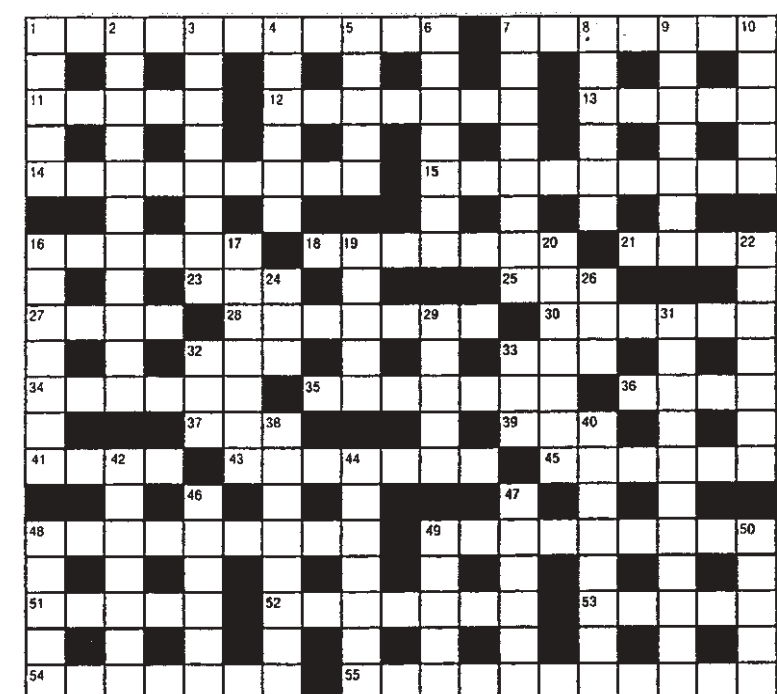
Our two suburban newspapers in Wellington have been publishing for many years and enjoyed by our local readers.

We'd like to reach potential new clients...
Do you have what it takes?



If you think you'd be a perfect fit and want to explore this opportunity, contact us via email: katrina@wsn.co.nz or les@wsn.co.nz

CROSSWORD Puzzle



ACROSS

- Result (5-6)
- Scoundrel (7)
- Pulls (5)
- Deviousness (7)
- Excellent (5)
- Alert (9)
- So (9)
- Directs (6)
- Skull (7)
- Disorder (4)
- Racket (3)
- Take by sips (3)
- Stake (4)
- Artlessness (7)
- Low chair; Chaise ... (6)
- Expert; ... hand (3)
- Strange (3)
- Zealous (6)
- In brisk time(music) (7)
- U.S. state (4)
- Biblical vessel (3)
- Curve (3)
- Cupid (4)
- Exposed to air (7)
- Female relatives (6)
- An endless time(Lat) (9)
- Left handed people(Inf) (9)

DOWN

- Sound (5)
- Sent (11)
- Shy (8)
- Of public revenue (6)
- Turn outwards (5)
- Constrict (7)
- Has high morals (8)
- Reduce (6)
- Sanction (7)
- Audacity (5)
- Arrange in steps (7)
- 'Old Blue Eyes' Frank ... (7)
- Competitor (5)
- N.Z. Prime Minister 1975-84 Sir Robert ... (7)
- Boils (7)
- Catch (3)
- Group of whales (3)
- Topic (5)
- Uninvited guest (4-7)
- Deoxyribonucleic acid

(abbr) (3)

- Sphere (3)
- U.S. horse race; ... Derby (8)
- Restrained (8)
- Casual (7)
- Annual calendar (7)
- Scoffs (6)
- Manservant (6)
- Form of expression (5)
- Water vapour (5)
- Gamb (5)

Solution

Last Week: 15 October 2026





Onslow's victorious 2025-26 Pearce Cup team. Photo: Supplied.

Cricket opening day washed out

By Frank Neill

The Onslow, Karori and Johnsonville Cricketers were unable to take to the field when the new season started on 17 October. Their Cricket Wellington matches were abandoned as a result of the rain that fell on Saturday.

The three clubs' Premier teams were each scheduled to play two limited overs matches. Onslow was scheduled to play Taita and Karori at Fraser Park in the Premier Division 1 competition.

As well as playing Onslow, Karori was due to play Victoria University of Wellington, also at Fraser Park.

Johnsonville was due to play Wellington Collegians and Naenae Old Boys in the Premier Division 2 competition at Adventure Park.

Onslow is scheduled to play Victoria University of Wellington at 10.30am at Fraser Park next Saturday.

Karori is scheduled to play Taita at 10.30am at Fraser Park.

Johnsonville is down to play two matches, against Petone Riverside at 10.30am and Wainuiomata at 3.30pm at Te Whiti Park.

Onslow's Premier team will be looking to emulate their outstanding 2025-26 season in 2026-27.

Onslow won the Pearce Cup, symbol of Wellington Cricket supremacy, when they defeated Hutt District in the final, played at Nairnville Park on 3 and 4 April.

In winning the match, Onslow came back from a big first innings deficit.

Batting first, Hutt District scored 183 and then bowled Onslow out for 142.

However the Onslow bowlers came out firing on day two of the match and Hutt District were bowled out for just 87 runs.

Needing 129 runs for victory, Onslow reached that total for the loss of five wickets.

Summer sports coverage in the paper

By Frank Neill

The 'Independent Herald' is keen to ensure good coverage of summer sport for all teams based in Wellington's northern and western suburbs.

In order to do this, the paper's reporter Frank Neill is keen to touch base with the appropriate contact people for each sport.

Frank is asking each sport to make contact with him, either by email at frank@wsn.co.nz or by telephone at 027 490 3916, providing the up-to-date contact person and their contact details.

The ideal scenario is that every sporting

code in the paper's area is able to make contact with the 'Independent Herald' once a week, where there are weekly competitions, or where the competitions are less often than weekly whenever the competitions take place.

Some winter sports also run events during the summer, and the paper is also interested in hearing about these events.

"We look forward to hearing from you," Frank says.

"As the 'Independent Herald' has only one reporter, the paper is reliant on receiving information and photographs from the sports clubs and organisations."

Mixed National League results for Wellington teams

Four weeks have absolutely flown by in both the men's and women's National League competitions for 2026 and the table in both is already starting to shape up with leaders and the chasing pack.

Waterside Karori again kicked off round four of the women's league, under the lights of Martin Luckie Park on Friday evening, taking on the Wellington Phoenix reserves.

Things started well for Karori when they took the lead in the 14th minute through Skylar Cornell.

Two goals just before the halftime break saw Karori trailing 2-1 at the interval and Eliza Vincent then sealed the game for Phoenix Reserves with a goal in the 85th minute bringing an end to Wharfies two game winning run with a 3-1 defeat.

Wellington United, on the other hand, after a trip north the week before headed south to take on Southern United on Sunday and a brace from women's Central League golden boot winner Hannah Pilley as well as goals from Ela Jerez and Georgia Furnell sealed Wellington United a 4-0 victory.

The two sides from the capital will meet this Friday night in a fourth versus fifth battle on the league table under the lights of Martin Luckie Park with kick off at 7.30pm.

Both Miramar Rangers and Wellington Olympic played at home against sides that had travelled down from Auckland in round

four of the men's National League and safe to say had differing afternoons.

Miramar could be proud of their efforts and resilience against Auckland City but goals in the first 10 minutes and one in the dying stages of the contest saw City fly home with a 2-0 victory over Rangers, handing Miramar their first defeat of the national league.

Olympic meanwhile after being 10 seconds away from three points a week earlier, put Eastern Suburbs to the sword at Wakefield with a resounding 4-0 victory.

They scored three second half goals as they sit fourth on the table but expect to drop down as they enter their bye week this coming Labour weekend.

The National Under 19's tournament, run superbly by Napier Rovers, beckons this weekend with North Wellington and Karori among many other Wellington clubs featured across the tournament.

Games will be played on Saturday and Sunday, plus Monday for teams fortunate enough to make it to the semi final and beyond stages of the competition.

North Wellington find themselves with Miramar, North Shore, Northland, Whanganui Athletic and Bay Olympic in Group A.

Waterside Karori will contest Group C alongside Hibiscus Coast, Melville, Upper Hutt, Petone and Papamoa FC.

Buses replacing trains

All Metlink trains will be replaced by buses over Labour Weekend, when major infrastructure upgrades are progressed as part of work to strengthen and build resilience into the rail network.

From Saturday 24 to Monday 26 October buses replace trains on all lines for all three days, giving KiwiRail crews uninterrupted access to progress multiple projects while fewer people are travelling.

Work over the long weekend will include line renewals and tunnel work, alongside preparatory work for the new substation at Naenae.

The substation is one of several being built to increase the power available to the rail network, supporting improvements to services, including the introduction of the new battery electric Tūhono trains from 2029.

Rail replacement buses will follow the normal weekend timetable for train services on Saturday and Sunday, and the Sunday timetable on Labour Day

Monday.

At Wellington Railway Station, all buses replacing trains will arrive at and depart from Platform 10. Passengers using rail replacement services should tag on and off onboard the bus.

Off-peak fares will apply throughout Labour Weekend. SuperGold cardholders can travel free all day on Saturday and Sunday and the public holiday Monday.

Metlink bus and harbour ferry services will operate normally on Saturday and Sunday and to a Sunday timetable on Labour Day Monday.

After Midnight bus services will run as usual on Friday and Saturday nights.

Rail passengers are encouraged to plan ahead, allow extra time for travel and check the Metlink app or website before leaving home.

For the latest travel information and details of planned rail closures, visit the Metlink website or app, or call 0800 801 700.



Your Local NEWS

Buying Now



- All Gold Jewellery
- Coin and Banknote Collections and accumulations
- Antique, Estate, and Modern Jewellery
- Silver and Gold Bullion
- All Vintage and Old Watches



Are you moving, downsizing, or worried about security?
No longer collecting? Family not interested?
Would the money be more useful to you?

Please come and see us in our permanent store for an “on the spot” appraisal and offer.

Visit Us

Heritage Gold
Imperial Park, Unit 81,
41 Bouverie Street,
Petone, Lower Hutt.
Next to Gilmours & Mitre 10.

Phone +64 21 074 9410

Email Hannah@heritagegold.nz

Web www.heritagegold.nz

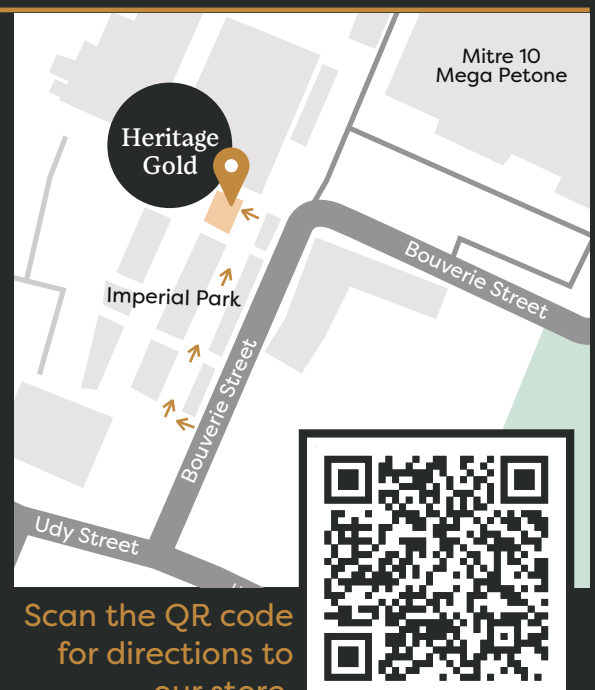
Store Open Hours

Mon - Fri: 9:30am - 2:30pm
Thursday: 9:30am - 4pm
No appointment necessary.

**ALWAYS
BUYING
AND
SELLING**

Heritage Gold

Family owned, Fourth generation, Fully licenced



Scan the QR code
for directions to
our store.