

Thursday August 13, 2026



Today 9-15



Friday 9-15



Saturday 6-12



Sunday 5-9

Phone: (04) 587 1660

Massive loss

By Frank Neill

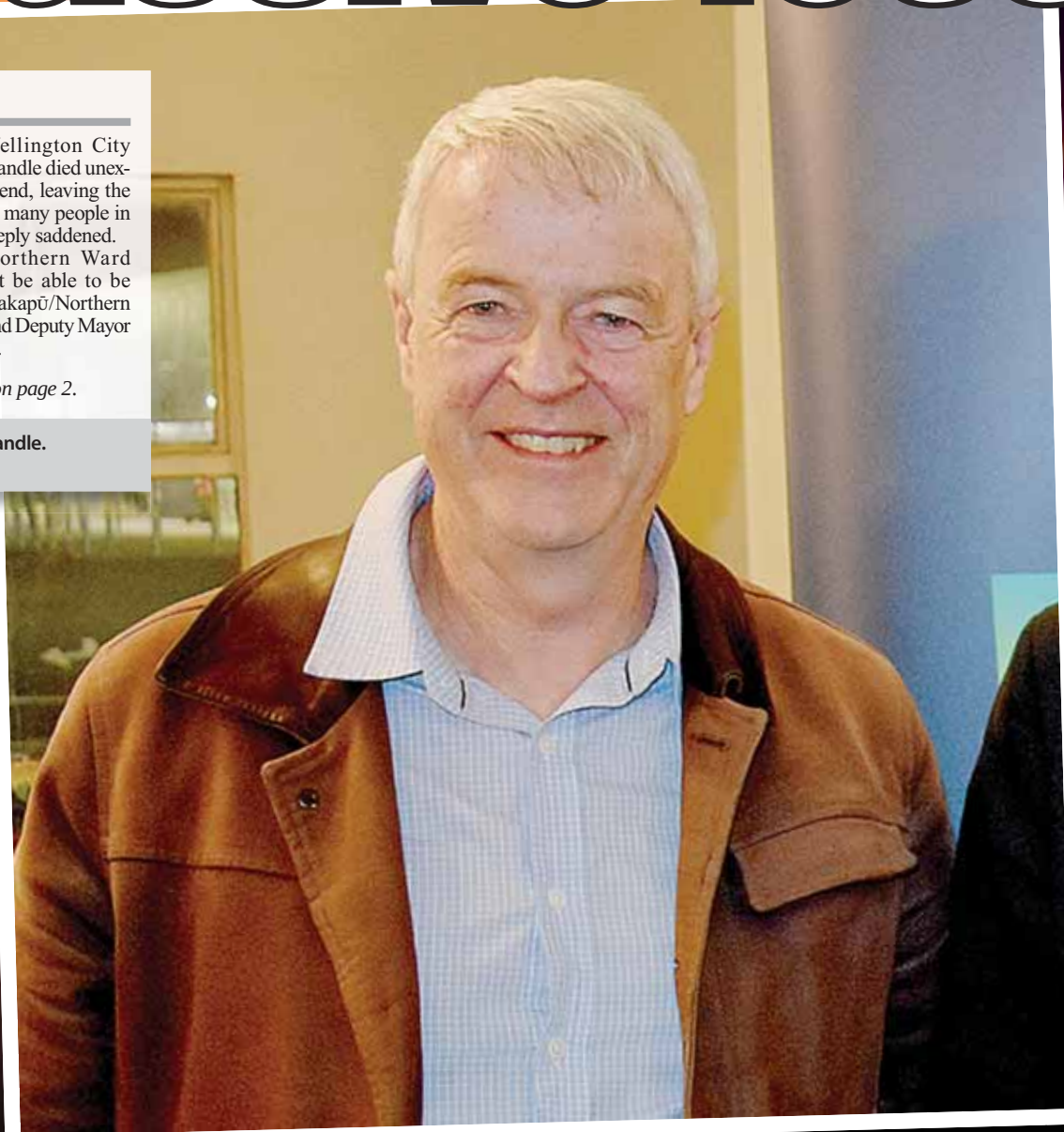
Outstanding Wellington City Councillor Tony Randle died unexpectedly last weekend, leaving the entire Council and many people in the community deeply saddened.

The Takapū/Northern Ward Councillor "won't be able to be replaced," fellow Takapū/Northern Ward Councillor and Deputy Mayor Ben McNulty says.

Continued on page 2.

Councillor Tony Randle.

Photo: Frank Neill.



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Cr Randle was widely respected

Continued from page 1.

Both he and the wider Council "are just completely devastated" by the news of Cr Randle's passing.

"Tony had a particular skill set that he brought to the Council table that no-one else did.

"His analytic nature, his desire to dive that level deeper to make sure decisions were being based on the right and the correct was unmatched," Cr McNulty says.

"He had respect across the Council about just how diligently he performed his role.

"For me he was not just a colleague, but he was a friend.

"Even though we often were on the opposite sides of some political decisions, it didn't matter at the end of the day. We could put that aside and still go into the Johnsonville Club and grab a beer.

"It was that kind of relationship. It was a mutual respect.

"Respect is something everyone had for Tony – the way he conducted himself, how diligently he performed his role, the way he threw himself into his community.

"We are going to miss him dearly," Cr McNulty says.

Like her fellow Takapū/Northern Ward Councillor, Councillor Andrea Compton is "absolutely devastated" by Cr Randle's death. "He took me under his wing right from when I indicated I wanted to stand for Council," she says.

He was supportive and encouraging and "he really wanted me on Council with him and he knew that we basically were a team.

"He helped me enormously. I can't put into words how much he helped me.

"He was a total gentleman and his attention to detail was just second to none. I've never met anything quite like it.

**Councillor Tony Randle in front of a panoramic views of Wellington.** Photo: Supplied.

"His analytic skills were pretty special too and that's a skill that a council needs.

"We are really going to miss him" Cr Compton says.

Cr Randle was first elected to Wellington City Council in 2022 and was re-elected in 2025. Before that he served as President of the Johnsonville Community Association from 2020 to 2022.

Wellington Mayor Andrew Little says Cr Randle's contribution to the Council was marked by diligence, care and a commitment to understanding the detail.

"Tony was deeply committed to public service and wanted the best for Wellington and its communities," the Mayor says.

"He was always cordial and constructive, but he also brought a healthy scepticism to every issue.

"He believed an important part of his role was to challenge, question and test assumptions to ensure decisions were based on solid evidence.

"What really set him apart was his focus on substance over rhetoric.

"He wanted to understand the facts, examine

the evidence, and make the best possible decision based on all available information.

"He was never willing to be rushed and valued thorough analysis and quality decision-making above all else.

"He applied his analytical skills to public transport in particular and was always willing to engage with the public on detailed and principled grounds," the Mayor says.

"I am deeply saddened by the sudden loss of my friend and councillor colleague, Tony Randle," Wharangi/Onslow-Western Ward Councillor Diane Calvert says.

"I first met Tony early on when I became a Councillor back in 2016.

"He was always generous with his time and a fountain of knowledge about all things public transport – from buses to trains.

"Living in neighbouring suburbs, we shared a practical understanding of how public transport operated across the Onslow and Northern suburbs, which became a frequent topic of conversation.

Continued on page 7.

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Greg O'Connor MP for Ōhāriu

The sudden death of Councillor Tony Randall on Sunday has impacted on many people. Obviously, all our thoughts go out to his family who are left to deal with such a personal tragedy.

His constituents in the Northern Ward of Wellington and his fellow councillors on Wellington City Council, will lose a dedicated, intelligent man intent on doing the right thing for our city, and his elected area.

As I walked around Johnsonville on Monday morning, I was approached by many shocked folk who wanted to pass on their heartfelt sympathy. There are probably not many people whose passing would impact in such a big way. May he rest in peace.

Ironically, Tony's passing comes at a time when the Wellington Region is contemplating amalgamation of all our councils into a super city. Whereas Christchurch and Auckland

are able to make decisions citywide and with much greater budgets, Wellington has management costs replicated for each council.

Let's face it, people out of Wellington don't differentiate between the cities, regarding us as one entity. Older folk will remember when the cities were dotted with small boroughs like Petone and Tawa which struggled to provide services, like small councils do today.

Back then to Tony's passing, councils need analytical and motivated people like him to do the best for our city which is under siege from the rest of New Zealand, who don't understand the importance of the business of government. I invite them to visit countries which have no credible government, to understand the importance of maintaining what we have here, a professional and independent public service. Many of those people live in our area.

You can contact my office on **04 478 3332** or email
Greg.OConnor@parliament.govt.nz.

**Labour**

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

Street party to welcome new crossing

By Frank Neill

The Karori Community Action Group (KCAG) hosted a street party to celebrate the new pedestrian ramps and crossing improvements outside St John of God (SJOG) on Messines Road and on Braithwaite Street on 11 August.

The co-chair of the KCAG, Annelize Steyn, cut a ribbon to mark the opening of the new pedestrian ramps and improvements.

The ceremony was attended by Wellington City Council's Traffic Engineer Karl Rudge, Council staff, residents of SJOG and Huntleigh Home, and local residents.

The new improvements had their genesis around 18 months ago when Bronwyn Hayward, who was also a co-chair of the KCAG, decided to travel to a meeting of the group, being held at SJOG from Huntleigh Home where she lived.

She complained that it was hard to cross Braithwaite Street and even harder to cross Messines Road.

The KCAG decided to do something about it, to make it easier access for everyone and Huntleigh Home resident Valerie Smith then took up the case.

"I had earlier liaised with Wellington City Council Traffic Engineers over the Campbell Street crossing," Valerie says.

This crossing was completed on 17 April 2024, and its completion was also celebrated with a street party.

"I once again chased up WCC and eventually was put onto Traffic Engineer Karl Rudge, who when we made a case to him, came out with a colleague to look at the problem and took measurements," Valerie says.

"We again made the case in writing for him, and he took up our issue within WCC.

"Finally earlier this year Karl informed us he would be away for three months, but over June, July and August the 'pedestrian improvements' as he called them would be completed," Valerie says. "We wouldn't get the zebra crossing we would have liked but we would get a safe crossing on Messines Road and Braithwaite Street, with median safe strips on both, and better footpaths between the two."

This is, Valerie says "a huge improvement on what we had."



Annelize Steyn cuts the ribbon to mark the opening of the newly improved pedestrian crossing areas and footpaths on Messines Road and Braithwaite Street, just behind one of the new pedestrian ramps outside the gate into SJOG. Photo: Frank Neill.

inbrief news

Buses replace trains

Interpeak services on all rail lines will be replaced by buses on Wednesday 19 August due to the annual general meeting of the Rail and Maritime Transport Union.

Buses will replace trains from approximately 8:30am, with normal train services resuming on all lines from approximately 1pm.

Metlink fully supports union members attending this important meeting and apologises for any inconvenience to passengers.

Rail passengers intending to travel during the meeting are advised to plan ahead and allow extra time for their journeys.

Keep up to date with bus replacement timetables and stop locations on the Metlink app, website or by calling 0800 801 700.

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Labour



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

Region-wide amalgamation plan

A region-wide amalgamation proposal, supported by Wellington City Council, Porirua City Council, Hutt City Council and the South Wairarapa District Council, will be presented to the government under its Head Start programme by the Wellington Mayoral Forum.

This was announced by the Mayoral Forum following its meeting on 7 August. It is one of two proposals that will come from councils in the region.

The second is for a Wairarapa proposal, supported by the Carterton District Council and the Masterton District Council.

"The proposals will convey the positions of individual councils and we will request of Government that the door remains open for alternative arrangements for KCDC [Kapiti Coast District Council] and UHCC

[Upper Hutt City Council]," the Mayoral Forum says.

"The Wellington region was already working together and remains committed to doing so regardless of the Head Start process.

"The discussions are constructive.

"Mana whenua partnership at all layers and Māori representation is fundamental and we remain committed to their continued involvement now and into the future.

"Not every Council agrees and their views are respected and will be conveyed faithfully," the Mayoral Forum says.

"Cover letters will include the region's principles as bottom lines, individual position statements and any joint requests of Government."

Research event for Family History Month

August is Family History Month, and the four Wellington area branches of the New Zealand Society of Genealogists start planning early in the year to put on a day of research.

The theme this year is Round the Isles and will feature speakers with expert knowledge on the four main countries of the United Kingdom – England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland and will also include Shetland and the Isle of Man.

The research day will be held on Saturday 29 August at the Tawa Union Church Hall, 6 Elana Place Tawa.

The doors will open at 9.30am and the research day will run until 4pm.

Everyone, newbies and more experienced researchers, is invited.

Entry is free, and tea and coffee supplied for a koha.

"There will be raffles with great prizes – subscriptions to two different genealogy sites, goodies baskets, one year sub to NZSG and a one year sub to the genealogy group in your area: Porirua, Hutt, Kilbirnie



and Wellington.

"If you're keen to find out more about where your British ancestors came from come along on 29 August and meet some like minded folk," the society says.

More information is available by emailing porirua@genealogy.org.nz or phoning Pat on 027 272 8966.



A band performing at a past Gardens Magic Concert Series. Photo: Wellington City Council

Performers for Gardens Magic wanted

Wellington City Council is looking for performers for the Gardens Magic Concert Series when it returns for its 47th year in January 2027.

Set in the Botanic Garden ki Paekākā, the event showcases diverse music from Wellington's best and brightest talent.

The Gardens Magic Concert Series will run from 12 to 31 January.

Individuals or bands can apply by visiting wellington.govt.nz/news-and-events/events-and-festivals/gardens-magic.

Applications close at 11:50pm on Monday 31 August.

Wellington City Council says it is looking to

showcase a diverse range of family-friendly music from Te Whanganui-a-Tara's best and brightest local legends and rising stars.

"We welcome applications across all styles such as Māori music, classical, jazz, indie, pop, folk, rock, country, choral, avant-garde, blues, ska, reggae, world music and more.

"Applicants will need to be available between 12 and 31 January 2027.

"In 2027 we are offering two performance slots each evening:

- 7pm to 8pm: warm-up solo act – for soloists performing as the audience gathers; and
- 8pm to 9.15pm: the main event – for bands or soloists."

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Ngaio Agile celebrates eight years

Ngaio Agile celebrated its eighth birthday on 10 August.

On 6 August 2018 something new commenced in Ngaio – exercise classes for older people.

That day 35 people from the neighbouring communities turned up with the hope of becoming stronger and more balanced.

On Monday 10 August a crowd of around 60 gathered to mark that achievement.

Ngaio Agile is a community-based, and led, chapter of the nation-wide Live Stronger for Longer programme.

This programme aims at helping older people keep good muscle strength and be better balanced, all to help prevent falls that often result in broken hips and the like.

It is an ACC and Ministry of Health initiative.

Eight years down the track sees around 50 regulars gather at the Ngaio Union Church each Monday morning to do the exercising, enjoy some good company and tuck into coffee and treats.

More want to attend but the demand for places cannot be met because of limited space available.

To cope with that a wait list is in place, acting like a 'waiting room' for those keen to join the group, as space allows.

Feedback from participants testifies to the good effect of both the physical exercising and

the social interacting. This makes the activity all the more worth doing.

Many live on their own and so Ngaio Agile becomes a regular place for meeting with others outside the home.

Ngaio Agile is organised and run by a team of 11 volunteers from both the Ngaio Union Church and the local community.

This team approach has proved a key feature of the success of Ngaio Agile, sharing the many responsibilities and combining for robust management.

Nuku Ora (formerly Sport Wellington) acts as a resource and support agency for the Live Stronger for Longer programme for the greater Wellington and Wairarapa areas. Their representatives provide training, guidance and networking for suppliers of the programme.

Being a community-based provider means the whole programme runs through volunteer commitment.

The instructors are not professionals but rather are local people who have caught the vision and made themselves available for training and to be rostered on. It's all very low key, but seems to work for the faithful who beat a path to the door of the church each Monday. So, from small beginnings come big things – big in value and significance, to the many in their later years who look for opportunities to belong and benefit from that which 'keeps them young.'



A Ngaio Agile class in action. Photo: Morris Robertson.

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As part of Triton Hearing's Better Hearing Guarantee, clients have access to the very latest advancements in hearing technology — ensuring solutions are tailored to individual lifestyles, environments and levels of hearing loss. One of the newest innovations available is the Phonak Audeo™ Sphere. Designed for people who regularly spend time in social settings, Audeo Sphere uses advanced sound processing to help prioritise speech while reducing background noise. Whether it's dinner with friends, family gatherings or busy cafés, it supports clearer conversations and greater confidence in group environments.

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A scene from a previous Te Herenga Waka – Victoria University of Wellington Open Day. Photo: Supplied.

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Join the fun at Victoria University open day

Te Herenga Waka – Victoria University of Wellington is inviting the next generation to come and experience Open Day on Friday 21 August.

Iconic Wellington landmarks will be lit up green to mark the occasion, contributing to a city-wide celebration.

From the moment visitors exit the train station and head to the bus stop outside the university's Pipitea campus, they will see Wellington through green-tinted glasses.

With more than 4,800 high-school students and their caregivers already registered to attend, including many students from Wellington's northern and western suburbs, the university says it will be a day to remember.

The event offers prospective students a chance to attend sample lectures, explore the university's campuses, and get a feel for life as a student in the capital.

They will have the chance to ask big questions of the university's in-house philosophers, design a chocolate wrapper, play some student-created games, and even sample some ice cream made with liquid nitrogen.

Local retail, hospitality and tourism businesses are also getting involved, offering discounts and giveaways to visitors through the funky festival wristband.

Vice-Chancellor Bryony James says that while attracting prospective students to Open Day is a key focus, the event is as much about showcasing the city vibe as the university's three fantastic campuses.

"What an incredible city to be a student in," she says.

"You're right in the beating heart of the creative, political, legal, corporate and scientific ecosystem of the country.

"The best thing about Open Day is watching the spark ignite someone's sense that they might just have found their place in the world."

The event is part of the university's ongoing efforts to attract and engage prospective students while supporting the Wellington scene.

Open Day 2026 is expected to be one of the largest gatherings of future students in recent years.

Registrations are open now at <https://www.wgtn.ac.nz/study/events-visits/open-day>.

NZer of the Year nominations open

Nominations for the Kiwibank New Zealander of the Year Awards Ngā Tohu Pou Kōhure o Aotearoa close in five days – on 18 August.

These awards honour people who use their passion to make Aotearoa New Zealand a better place.

Capital Kiwi Project founder Paul Ward was a semi finalist in the 2024 Kiwibank New Zealander of the Year Awards. Paul was selected in the 2024 Ministry for the Environment Environmental Hero Award section.

The awards recognise a diverse range of people making a difference and nominations can be made at nzawards.org.nz.

Six awards are made to individuals in the following categories:

- Kiwibank New Zealander of

the Year;

- Go Media Young New Zealander of the Year;

- Ryman Healthcare Senior New Zealander of the Year;

- Tower New Zealand Local Hero of the Year;

- 2degrees New Zealand Innovator of the Year;

- New Zealand Sustainability Leader of the Year; and

- Mitre 10 New Zealand Community of the Year.

Semi-finalists for the seven award categories will be announced on 10 December, with the top three finalists in each award announced on 4 March 2027.

The winners will be announced in April 2027 at the Kiwibank New Zealander of the Year Awards Gala in Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland.



John Pearson (left) and Geoff Burkett in front of the portrait of Sir Keith Park just after it was presented to the British High Commission. Photo: Frank Neill.

Portrait of NZ hero presented

By Frank Neill

A portrait of Sir Keith Park, who should be much more widely known as a famous New Zealander, was presented to the British High Commission in Wellington on 6 August.

Sir Keith, who regularly visited his sister Lilly in Kelburn, played the key role in the Battle of Britain victory during the Second World War.

His superb strategic and tactical abilities and his outstanding leadership ensured what was a victory, and secured it against the odds.

It saved Britain from being invaded by Hitler and that outcome may well have saved the world from being subjected to Nazi tyranny.

"If any one man won the Battle of Britain, he did," Lord Tedder, who later became Chief of the Royal Air Force, said in 1947.

"I do not believe it is realised how much that one man, with his leadership, his calm judgement and his skill, did to save not only our country but the world."

Sir Keith's portrait was presented to the acting British High Commissioner John Pearson by the President of Sir Keith Park Memorial Airfield Inc, Geoff Burkett.

The Sir Keith Park Memorial Airfield is in Thames.

Sir Keith "leaves an amazing legacy," Mr Pearson said in accepting the portrait.

He commanded RAF No 11 Group during Battle of Britain in 1940.

"Tasked with defending London and south-east England. Group No 11 was pivotal in defeating the German Luftwaffe and preventing a Nazi invasion of Britain.

"He became known as the 'Defender of London' in German intelligence appraisals."

The principal meeting room at the British High Commission's offices in Wellington is named after Sir Keith.

It was "lovely that today we can add this portrait to the room," Mr Pearson said.

He also noted that after his return to New Zealand Sir Keith became chairman of the Auckland International Airport Committee in 1951 and helped persuade the government to purchase land for the Airport.

He served three terms as Auckland City Councillor and was an active supporter of various charities, Mr Pearson said.

"We believe that none of our countrymen from this era had a more direct impact on our history and been denied more recognition," the Chief of Air Staff, Sir Stephen Dalton, said in 2010.

"Everywhere, and all the time, Park knew he was a New Zealander.

"He never failed at any task he was given."

As well as playing the key role in winning the Battle of Britain, Sir Keith was the architect of the British victory in the Battle of Malta.

"He is certainly an unsung hero," Mr Burkett said when presenting the portrait.

Climate change workshop in Karori

Climate Action Karori is running a climate change workshop on Sunday 6 September.

The workshop will be held at 7 Beauchamp Street, Karori from 2pm to 4:30pm.

"Our climate is changing now, and we need to change too," Climate Action Karori says.

"In this engaging community workshop, we will explore and discuss climate change, what it is, what causes it, what the impacts are globally and locally and what we can do.

"We'll carry out simple household carbon footprint calculations and make personal plans for action – everyday actions for a better climate future.

"If there is interest, further workshops

could cover: transport, citizen voice, home energy, consumption and waste, and food.

"This is an opportunity to meet and connect in a friendly, supportive local setting.

"Everyone is welcome.

"Koha/ donations are appreciated to help cover the cost of room hire and light refreshments," Climate Action Karori says.

Climate Action Karori is a collection of Karori residents who aim to support the community to understand climate change and take positive action.

Registration for the climate change workshop is required and can be made by visiting <https://www.facebook.com/share/18zZhtTmC/>.

His legacy will live on



Continued from page 2.

"From the infamous 'busastrophe' in 2018 through to cycleways and recent discussions around Harbour Quays roading changes, Tony was consistently immersed in the data and figures.

"He was driven by his desire to make the best possible decisions for the city, always seeking accurate information to inform his work.

"Tony was a special person whom we have lost far too soon.

"He was always willing to offer a helping hand and share his wisdom.

"I doubt we will see anyone like Tony on council again, with such passion and skill for spreadsheets and data.

"Wellingtonians, especially those living in

the Takapū/Northern ward, were very well served by Tony's dedication and expertise."

Cr Calvert says. "We are all here for one another during this challenging time. My thoughts are with Tony's family as they now navigate life without him. They should be very proud of everything Tony accomplished, as are we all.

"Tony's legacy will live on through the many lives he touched and the work he championed," she adds.

Wellington City Council will need to conduct a by-election to fill the vacant Council seat. Details were not finalised when the 'Independent Herald' went to print, but it is likely to be around the time of the national election in November this year.

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Works for a peaceful world

A display of children's art will open at the Waitohi Johnsonville Library on Saturday 15 August.

Entitled "Tūmanako (Hope)! Children's art – Works for a peaceful world", the exhibition will run until 6 September on the lower ground floor section of the library during library hours.

It will feature a selection of artwork submitted by children during July.

This is the 11th year of running Tūmanako – Children's Art. Works for a Peaceful World. This year's theme is: Kōtahi te kākano whakaaro, he nui ngā hua o te rākau houhou rongo : One seed of thought grows the forest of peace.

Organised by SGINZ, this is a community event encouraging young ones (aged under

18 years) to express their creativity and share their aspirations for a peaceful, inclusive and nuclear-free world.

The children have created works of art to share their aspirations for a peaceful, inclusive and nuclear free world in remembrance of Hiroshima Day.

Tūmanako enables tamariki and taiohi to learn about the root causes of violence and promote peace.

The first Tūmanako was held in Wellington in 2015 commemorating the anniversary of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki nuclear attack in 1945.

The event has since grown and has been held across Aotearoa, including Auckland, Tauranga, Christchurch, Wairarapa, Hutt City, Timaru, Dunedin and Queenstown.



Art work like this will feature at the upcoming exhibition in Johnsonville. Photo: Supplied.

New Blood Bank to serve region

The New Zealand Blood Service officially opened its new Wellington Blood Bank on 30 July.

This marks a significant investment in the future of New Zealand's blood supply and ensuring the Greater Wellington region is well placed to meet growing demand for specialist blood banking and transfusion laboratory services.

Opened by the Minister of Health Simeon Brown, the facility at Wellington Regional Hospital is more than three times larger than the previous site and has been designed to support growing demand, improve resilience and provide capacity for future expansion.

Operating 24 hours a day, seven days a week, the Wellington Blood Bank plays a vital role in patient care by providing specialist testing and managing the supply of blood and blood products for the region.

The Service's Chief Executive Sam Cliffe says that demand for specialist testing and transfusion support has grown significantly since the blood bank was first set up at Wellington Regional Hospital more than 45 years ago.

"Most people never see the work that happens inside a blood bank, but it is a critical part of modern healthcare," Sam says.

"Behind every transfusion is a team of highly skilled professionals working around the clock to make sure patients receive the right blood products when they need them most.

"This new facility is about preparing for the future.

"It gives us the capacity, resilience and modern infrastructure we need to meet growing demand, support increasingly complex healthcare services, and continue providing world-class transfusion support for patients across the Wellington region.

"Just as importantly, it's an investment in our people.

"Our Wellington team delivers an extraordinary service every day, and they now have a laboratory designed to support the vital work they do for years to come."

The new laboratory has space for additional testing capability, including a second blood analyser and increased refrigerated storage to help ensure continuity of service.

The Wellington Blood Bank team of 15 staff, including 13 scientists, carries out around 40,000 tests each year.

Their work helps ensure patients receive the right blood and blood products when they need them by storing and managing donated blood, undertaking specialist compatibility testing before transfusions, and performing highly specialised testing to support services such as kidney transplantation.

Michelle Sutherland, Interim Group Director of Operations for Capital, Coast and Hutt Valley, said the new blood bank is an important investment in the region's health services.

"The Wellington Blood Bank is an essential part of the care we provide every day at Wellington Regional Hospital," Michelle says.

"Having this purpose-built facility on site strengthens our ability to deliver timely, safe and high-quality care for patients who need blood transfusions and other specialist services. "We're proud to continue our close partnership with New Zealand Blood Service to support the health needs of our communities now and into the future." Minister of Health Hon Simeon Brown joined New Zealand Blood Service Chief Executive Sam Cliffe, representatives from Health New Zealand, members of the Service's Board and invited guests to mark the opening of the Wellington Blood Bank.



The violin that will feature in 'Irish fiddling: How migration shaped the music' at Te Takapū o Patukawenga Mervyn Kemp Tawa Library

Irish fiddling at Tawa Library

Irish fiddling: How migration shaped the music will take place at Te Takapū o Patukawenga Mervyn Kemp Tawa Library on Saturday 15 August from 11am to 11:45am.

The humble Irish fiddle-player and the music they play has changed substantially in the last 100 years, keeping step with the migration patterns of the Irish in the 19th and 20th centuries.

People attending this session will enjoy a light-hearted and musical romp through time, including some personal family insights, with librarian Sue on the fiddle.

Mabuhay! Filipino language storytime and crafts will be held at Waitohi Johnsonville Library on Saturday 15 August from 10:30am to 11:30am.

"Celebrating the multilingual heritage of the Philippines, join us for a bilingual storytime – in Filipino and English," Wellington City Libraries says.

"Let's celebrate the culture, history, and resilience of Filipino-Kiwi through stories and songs from home.

"Then, make a paper jeepney – a popular

mode of transportation in the Philippines."

Sit 'n' Knit will be held at Waitohi Johnsonville Library on Sunday 16 August from 2pm to 4pm.

This is a fortnightly sewing and craft group for thread-heads of all skill levels and ages.

"Bring along an existing project, some needles and some yarn, or use our basket of goodies," Wellington City Libraries says.

Teen craft 101: Learn to crochet will take place at Waitohi Johnsonville Library on Thursday 20 August from 3:45pm to 5pm.

"Up for a side quest after school? Learn the basics of crocheting. Join us for an hour of fun and creativity," Wellington City Libraries says.

"If you have your own project and would like to work alongside others, we would be happy to have you. All materials provided.

"Space is limited; sign-up is required. Go to <https://wellingtoncitylibraries.trumba.com/>.

This event is for rangatahi (teens) ages 11 and older.

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Mansfield Award entries open

Entries are now open for the Mansfield Short Story Award 2026.

This competition is open to all Year 12 and 13 students in the Wellington region and the selected short story writer will be awarded \$500, made possible by a bequest from long serving English teacher Gay Saker.

To enter the Mansfield Short Story Award:

- write a short story of no more than 1500 words (Word or Google Doc preferred);
- create a cover sheet with your name,

your school, year level (12 or 13), an email address and home address; and

- email your story and cover sheet to info@katherinemansfield.com.

Stories must be original, unpublished and not generated with the assistance of AI (for example ChatGPT).

Entries close at midnight on Monday 17 August.

Samuel Marsden Collegiate School student Siobhán Costello was the winner of the 2024 Mansfield Short Story Award.



Judge Brannavan Gnanalingam with the 2024 Mansfield Short Story Award winner Siobhán Costello. Photo: Supplied.



Safer Plates Day coming

By Frank Neill

The Karori Community Patrol is running a Safer Plates Day on 22 August.

This event offers car owners screws that protect their number plates from being stolen.

The Karori community patrollers, along with community constable Chris Wake, will be at Mitre 10 Crofton Downs trade yard from 10am to 2pm to install these for owners

for a \$5 donation.

All the funds raised will be used to support the Karori Community Patrol.

Safer plates involve replacing standard license plate screws with tamper-resistant or anti-theft screws, making it much harder for thieves to remove the plates from vehicles.

Because the anti-theft screws require special tools to remove, they deter opportunistic theft.

Seven 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 Normal School Netball Inc was granted \$9,510.30 for the supply and installation of outdoor netball goals.

Karori Toy Library Inc was granted \$5,896.53 for salaries.

Newlands College was granted \$5,000 for

travel and accommodation.

The Newlands Paparangi Tennis Club was granted \$5,000 for coaching fee.

The Ngaio Lawn Tennis Club was granted \$3,343.30 for equipment.

The Onslow Cricket Club was granted \$5,000 for cricket equipment.

Reva Reva School was granted \$5,000 for pool remediation.

The trust disbursed \$600,577.36 in the latest round of funding, announced on 5 August.

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



Christina Lawson who had a long criminal career, mostly charged under the Vagrant Act, and also for drinking. Photo: New Zealand Police Museum.

Talk on history of the incorrigibles

Dr Delwyn Blondell, an independent scholar and consultant historian, is the guest speaker at the next meeting of the Wellington Branch of the NZ Society of Genealogists.

The talk will begin at 7:30pm on Wednesday 19 August at the Johnsonville Bowling Club, 34 Frankmoore Avenue.

Dr Blondell's 2024 PhD thesis covered subjects ranging from prostitution to eugenic family studies.

Her talk will focus on 'NZ's 'Incorrigibles': tackling the vices of the socially problematic, 1870-1930'.

As the population of New Zealand grew and new settlers arrived, the expectations of what counted as 'respectable' society became increasingly rigid.

Those who repeatedly broke social laws or moral codes — the disorderly, the undeserving — found themselves pushed to the margins and considered incorrigible.

They were largely written out of the story, remembered only for how their vices allegedly undermined the virtue of the socially acceptable majority.

Some were notorious, such as the reviled baby farmers like Minnie Dean, the first

woman hanged in New Zealand.

Others were men and women in informal and bigamous marriages, ageing prostitutes and difficult reformatory girls.

Some left substantial records, as the State developed legal and administrative tools to manage their behaviour.

Others were all but invisible — ignored, overlooked and difficult to trace.

Dr Blondell will talk about what can be uncovered about their lives, and what their stories tell us about the society that sought to control them.

This talk is aimed at a general audience and is free. Visitors are very welcome at all the branch's meetings.

Coffee, tea, and biscuits are available from 7 pm, and the branch's friendly members will be happy to chat with people.

People who would like some help with their own family history research can ask branch members at the pre-meeting informal discussion group and help session which starts from 6 pm. The meeting should finish between 8.30 and 9 pm.

For more information on the society, visit www.wellingtongenealogy.org.



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What's cool in the Wairarapa

Put some swing into spring at Jazz in Martinborough

Spring arrives with a swing in Martinborough this September, as Jazz in Martinborough returns for three toe-tapping nights of live music from 3–6 September 2026.

At the heart of the festival is the Martinborough Town Hall, where this year's programme travels through some of jazz's most enduring sounds. Opening night sees Jan Preston's Boogie Circus take to the stage, led by the internationally acclaimed, Australian-based New Zealand pianist and boogie specialist.

On Friday, Wellington septet Les Tripes turns the spotlight on the music of legendary guitarist Django Reinhardt, evoking the gypsy jazz sound of 1930s and '40s Paris. The ticketed events of the festival end on the Saturday with It's

De-Lovely, a celebration of Cole Porter from Zak Dikvert's Zak Pack, featuring powerhouse vocalist Lisa Tomlins.

There will be a few extra free gigs around the town over the weekend, including at a couple of cafés on the Sunday. Jazz in Martinborough has been bringing music to the wine village since 2011, growing from a community-led initiative into a much-loved fixture on the region's events calendar.

Make a weekend of it and pair the music with everything Martinborough does so well – cellar doors, excellent food and an easy-going village atmosphere. It's a fitting way to welcome spring, with a little extra rhythm in your step.

See more at www.jazzinmartinborough.co.nz/



Kuripuni Bar and Tavern: A Place with Character

Kuripuni Bar & Tavern is the kind of place where the welcome is warm, the atmosphere is easy-going and there's always something happening.

Step through the doors and you'll find a true local pub atmosphere, bringing together Wairarapa locals, sports fans, friends catching up and visitors looking for a relaxed place to unwind. With friendly staff and plenty of personality, Kuripuni has all the ingredients of a classic Kiwi pub—with a few extras that make it stand out.

When the big game is on, Kuripuni is the place to be. Big screens bring major live sporting events and UFC action to life, creating an electric atmosphere when the competition heats up.

Racing fans are well catered for too. Kuripuni is the only pub in the Wairarapa with a TAB manned terminal and three SSTs, making it a popular stop for those wanting to follow the races and soak up the excitement.

And when the weather is playing along, head outside to the Outdoor Garden Bar, where screens keep you connected to all the racing and

sporting action while you enjoy your drink in the open air.

Challenge your mates to a game on one of the two free pool tables, pick up a set of darts or try your luck on the gaming machines. The pub's relaxed atmosphere makes it easy to settle in for a few games, a few laughs and perhaps a little friendly competition.

For those who love a challenge, Knockout Pool kicks off every Thursday night at 7pm. Bring your best game and see if you've got what it takes to make it to the final.

Then, on the first Wednesday of every month at 7pm, it's time to put your brain to the test at Quiz Night. Gather your cleverest mates, choose your team name and get ready for an evening of questions, laughs and a little bit of rivalry.

Of course, no great pub experience is complete without great food—and Kuripuni has that covered too.

Re-Burger, part of the pub, serves up some of the best burgers in town. Big, satisfying and made for enjoying with a cold drink and good company, they're a perfect match for the laid-back Tavern atmosphere.



Greytown Butchery knows how to win awards – sausages are their specialty

Established in 1873, Greytown Butchery is still operating in the same historic building and keeping old butchering traditions alive.

It's no wonder they consistently win awards with their multi-award winning sausages, having so far clocked up 25 awards in the last 18 years.

Greytown Butchery has recently won their 25th award at the annual Great New Zealand Sausage Competition. Ironically it was the Sausage Competition's 25th year running.

Greytown Butchery have also mark-

ed the Butchery Building's 150th year, with its establishment when Greytown Butchery first opened, by original owner, Sam Haigh.

Artisan butcher Gavin Green and Julie Fairbrother, have transformed this iconic and popular business into a gourmet, European-styled butchery.

It prides itself on top quality cuts with exceptional service to match.

Remember to bring your chilly bin with you next time for your goods – there's always plenty to choose from!



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The area of Wellington Railway Station where a range of artwork will be developed during the rest of the year. Photo: Supplied.

Public art at Wellington Railway Station

Local people will have an opportunity to participate in a major series of public art projects taking place over the remainder of 2026 at Wellington Railway Station.

Wellington arts organisation Urban Dream Brokerage announced the new project last week.

Supported by Wellington Metro partners KiwiRail, Metlink and Transdev, the Urban Dream Station Series sees a range of leading artists and organisations across the arts presenting free experimental projects.

They invite public participation and highlight the preciousness of the ornate 1937 Baroque and Jacobean styled interior architecture of our railway station.

The interactive projects will be based in the vacant site inside the station, running between July and December.

Featured creating daring new work are leading New Zealand artists like Seraphine Pick, Isabella Loudon, Gabby O'Connor, Jo Randerson and Steven Junil Park, leading producers Squiggla and Barbarian Productions and Melbourne public artmakers Strange Engine.

Squiggla invites people of all ages to discover the power of experimental drawing.

Using dots, lines, squiggles, in weekend workshops the public can respond to the station's grand architecture through art-making.

During their weekday evening commute they can collect a free Squiggla travel journal to make art on their train home – and then contribute to a digital gallery.

Squiggla by Train will take place in October.

More information is at <https://www.urbandreambrokerage.org.nz/railway-station>.

Urban Dream Brokerage, supported by Wellington City Council, broker the use of vacant space by artists in the city to provide more public use.

The project highlights the vital role public art, transport and architecture can play together in giving everybody free space to be inspired and come together.

"Participatory art provides vital democratic experience in public space," says broker Jason Muir.

"What could be a more fitting entrance to the Creative Capital than the Urban Dream Station?"

KiwiRail Wellington Metro General Manager Andy Lyon says public art has a nice fit with the region's metro service.

"It's all about community and shared experience, much like the daily commute for many of our passengers."

"We think bringing art into the city's busy railway station is a perfect way to brighten up the day for the thousands of people passing through it."

"We are delighted to be working with Urban Dream Brokers and warmly welcome the artists and their exhibitions into the Wellington Metro space."

From the end of July, sculptor Isabella Loudon and painter Seraphine Pick will be in residence with a collaborative making space, which will also be joined nearby by a video installation from current Massey University and Wellington City Council Te Whare Hēra artist in residence Gabby O'Connor.

Barbarian Productions present Clown Walk, an alternative participatory take on fashion shows with Steven Junil Park, Jo Randerson and other costume and fashion makers.

Then in November, Strange Engine present Diagrammatica, an independent large-scale participatory and immersive installation combining sculpture, live film, sound and improvised music that was first presented in Melbourne's Rising Festival beneath Federation Square in 2025 – a sellout success experienced by 2500 visitors.



The GHQ building during the 1913 Waterfront Strike. Photo: Supplied.

Local History – GHQ building

By Felicity Wong

There is a proposal to remove the heritage status of a very important historical building, the General Headquarters (GHQ), a landmark building on the corner of Taranaki and Buckle Streets.

It's the oldest building on Mount Cook, dating from 1912 on a site occupied by the military since the early days of Wellington's establishment.

The link for giving online feedback about continuing to recognise the building's heritage is below (due by 19 August).

Before the arrival of European settlers, Mount Cook was the Rangitane pa "Pukeahu".

In 1839 the area near Mount Cook was reserved for Te Aro iwi as part of the Wellington Tenth (every tenth section was to be allocated to Māori).

In 1850 a Crown grant was made of 5.26 hectares of the strategic top of Mount Cook overlooking Wellington.

Barracks for the Royal Engineers and the 65th (Wellington) Regiment were built.

That land held by the Ordinance Department did not include the area where the GHQ building stands today (section 90).

On 4 March 1874 the Crown purchased from Māori sections 89 and 90 for 500 pounds.

New wooden barracks were built in 1882 at the bottom of the hill on the corner of Taranaki and Buckle Streets.

The Permanent Artillery was housed there until the soldiers and army command were moved back up the hill to new brick barracks.

The Defence Stores Office (later called GHQ) was built on the bottom site in 1911/12.

It was designed by Government Architect John Campbell's office in the Edwardian Baroque style favoured for English Imperial military buildings, and built from bricks made by Mount Cook prisoners.

The bricks, marked with prison arrows, were also used (more visibly) for the (former) Mount Cook Police Station, at the other end of Pukeahu War Memorial Park, and for the wall along Tasman Street.

Over the main door on Buckle Street is an arch with the legend "GR V 1911" and above the arch is a coat of arms.

The building is one of the few physical reminders of the 1913 Waterfront Strike, a painful dispute between employers and the waterside workers, and formed the backdrop for the conflict.

The "specials", temporarily appointed constables (mostly farmers' sons), reinforced the police force.

The Garrison Hall on Buckle Street, where

the striking workers met, was long ago demolished.

In 1929 the military stores moved to Fort Dorset (Seatoun) and Defence Headquarters moved back down the hill and into the building so that the Dominion Museum and War Memorial could be built on top.

The General Officer Commanding the Army (GHQ) operated from the building until moving to Featherston Street and then to its new building on Stout Street during WWII (now MBIE).

The GHQ building was occupied by the Health Department and used by Internal Affairs for museum storage.

Pukeahu National War Memorial Park commemorates all New Zealanders who died or served in international conflicts, including the 18,000 who died as a result of WWI.

The park is a major part of New Zealand's national identity.

Its two brick buildings on each corner are significant bookends that anchor the park's military history.

The GHQ building is the oldest existing military installation building in New Zealand, built in preparation for the Great War.

It's now the last heritage defence building left on the Mount Cook site; a keystone of military history; and part of the city's WWI Heritage Trail.

Its current low NBS rating of 9% explains the huge containers that surround it but the building was strong enough to withstand multiple earthquakes, including the serious 1942 earthquake.

Under the Government's new legislation, the Building (Earthquake Prone Building System Reform) Amendment Act, it will no longer need expensive design and intervention when only its facade is actually the problem.

Modern and cheaper fixes that tie the facade to the floor of the building mean it can be relatively easily strengthened without a costly budget, meaning saving the building is possible.

New housing is also important but there are many empty sites nearby, including 196 Taranaki Street, 60m away, and the CityHop Carpark opposite.

Demolition of history, and of this unique and interesting building, is not needed to create an attractive and affordable city.

GHQ represents 176 years of military history on Mount Cook, and 152 years at the site at the bottom of the hill.

Feedback may be given until 19 August about its continued heritage status by visiting <https://consult.environment.govt.nz/resource-management/wellington-district-plan-heritage-provisions/>.

TOP's Newlands meeting



Hutt South candidate Ben Wylie-van Eerd (left) and Kenepuru candidate Robert Mason. Photo: Supplied.

Local Opportunity Party candidates Ben Wylie-van Eerd (Hutt South) and Robert Mason (Kenepuru) will host a community meeting at the Newlands Community Centre on Sunday 16 August at 2:30pm to discuss key policy priorities and answer questions from residents.

The meeting comes as Newlands has been divided into two new electorates: Hutt South and Kenepuru.

Both candidates will be present to share their vision for a more affordable, productive and future-focused New Zealand with residents from across the community.

"We're excited to connect with Newlands residents, regardless of which electorate they now find themselves in," the candidates said in a joint statement.

"This is an opportunity for our community to hear directly about our plans and ask questions about the issues that matter most to them –whether that's cost of living, housing affordability, climate change or New Zealand's future.

"We are keen to hear what Newlands wants to tell us."

The meeting, which is free and open to all, will include time for questions and open discussion, giving residents a chance to talk with their local candidates on the issues that concern them.

Light refreshments will be provided. "While we encourage walk-ins, we would appreciate an RSVP for catering purposes: https://www.opportunity.org.nz/meet_the_candidates_newlands.

Illegal drugs found in Karori

A man has been arrested following a Police search of a property in Karori.

The 39-year-old was charged in relation to the alleged importation of controlled drugs.

It followed Wellington CIB executing a search warrant at an address in Karori on 5 August.

"Police located evidence relating to the importation, manufacture, possession and possession for supply of controlled drugs,

including 4kg of dried material containing dimethyltryptamine (DMT), cannabis and magic mushrooms," Detective Sergeant Scott Tankin says.

"Specialist staff attended and assisted with the search.

"The man faces charges including attempts to import and possession for supply.

"He's due to reappear in the Wellington District Court on 27 August," Detective Sergeant Tankin says.



Items Police found at a Karori property. Photo: Police.

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Don't Chuck It. Fix It

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

Public Notice



Enrolment at Bellevue School is governed by an enrolment scheme, details of which are available from our website: www.bellevue-newlands.school.nz

The board has determined that up to five (5) places are likely to be available for out of zone students for the first enrolment period in 2027 (**Thursday 17 December 2026 to Friday 9 April 2027**). The exact number of places will depend on the number of applications received from students who live within the school's home zone. For students seeking enrolment within the first enrolment period of 2027, the deadline for receipt of applications for out of zone places is **9am, Friday 18 September 2026**.

If the number of out of zone applications exceeds the number of places available, students will be selected by ballot. If a ballot for out of zone places is required, this will be held on Friday 18 September 2026. Parents will be informed of the outcome of the ballot within three school days of the ballot being held. Details of how applications from out of zone students are processed are available on the school website.

Parents of students who live within the home zone and intend enrolling their child at any time during the next year should notify the school by as soon as possible to assist the school to plan appropriately for next year. Students who live in the home zone are entitled to enrol at the school.

Enrolment packs are available online at
www.bellevue-newlands.school.nz.

View the Herald online:
www.independentherald.co.nz

Mansfield House a runner up

By Frank Neill

Katherine Mansfield House & Garden was runner up in the Heritage and Environment section of this year's Wellington Airport Regional Community Awards.

The Wellington City community awards were presented at a ceremony at the Michael Fowler Centre on 29 July.

Katherine Mansfield House & Garden is a significant literary heritage attraction.

In Thorndon, it is where internationally acclaimed New Zealand writer Katherine Mansfield was born and lived the first five years of her life.

She wrote short stories, poetry, letters, journals and reviews. Many of her works have been translated into more than 25 languages.

Katherine Mansfield began writing as a teenager and soon vowed to make it her career.

After completing a couple of years of high school in London, she decided to make the Northern Hemisphere her home. She spent much of her time living and writing in England, Switzerland, and France.

Katherine died in 1923 at the age of 34 from tuberculosis.



Katherine Mansfield House and part of the garden. Photo: Stephen A Court.

Her legacy of letters and modernist short stories lives on. It inspires writers, musicians and artists, and draws visitors from around the

world to her birthplace in Wellington.

In the early 1980s the Tinakori Road house's connection to the internationally famous author was all but forgotten.

That changed when the Katherine Mansfield Birthplace Society was established in 1986 and began to restore the house.

They have worked to recreate how the home would have looked when the Mansfield family lived there.

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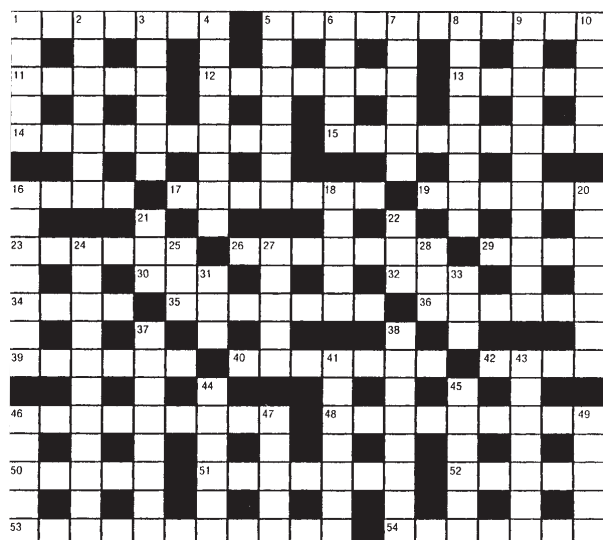
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CROSSWORD Puzzle



ACROSS

1. Word opposite in meaning to another (7)
5. Undergo religious conversion (3,3,5)
11. Worked at (5)
12. Not one or the other (7)
13. Braid (5)
14. Listen in (9)
15. Halt temporarily (9)
16. Fair (4)
17. Royal couple; ... & Camilla (7)
19. Write untidily (6)
23. Furor (6)
26. Leather pistol case (7)
29. Of the ear (4)
30. Slight blow (3)
32. Petrol (U.S.) (3)
34. Frog (4)
35. Prompts (7)
36. Desire to drink (6)
39. Hebrew prophet (O.T.) (6)
40. Ate lavishly (7)
42. Care for (4)
46. Obsolete (3-6)
48. Unrehearsed (9)
50. Friend (Sp) (5)
51. Gratify (7)

52. In the middle of (5)
53. Augmentation (11)
54. Child-minders, baby ... (7)

DOWN

1. Commodious (5)
2. Steals (7)
3. Sun-worshipping cult member (6)
4. Kingdom (8)
5. Captain (7)
6. Distinctive character of a culture (5)
7. Badger (6)
8. English novelist, D.H. ... (8)
9. Outstanding chess player (5,6)
10. Rough-surfaced cloth (5)
16. Festival (7)
18. Slackened (5)
20. Found (7)
21. Average (3)
22. Stage of journey (3)
24. Tell apart (11)
25. Spoil (3)
27. Of sheep (5)
28. Small rodent (3)
31. Vigour (3)

33. Throw (3)
37. Capital of Cape Province (S.A.) (4,4)
38. Dependent (8)
41. Small frying pan (7)
43. Beseech (7)
44. Suggest (6)
45. Tasmanian capital (6)
46. Calm (5)
47. Evade (5)
49. Strong desires (5)

Solution

Week: 30 July 2026

BARRICADE MATRIARCH
OIL BIDDING NAU
NADIR ABANDON TOPIC
A E O G M E D R I K
NARRATED ASTEROIDAL
Z A D O B T R D E
ALLY EMPLOYS HUBBUB
E USE U A C A E
BRAWN AFFECTS TENOR
O R I O N F A R S K I D R
DENIM INSTATE OVARY
Y E P E N S O N N
E A R T O N E A S I E S T M A M A
U E R A G A T A N
I N A R T I S T I C U N C O O K E D
L A T A T T I C S I V E E A
D E I G N H E A R T E N E N D O W
E B C M T E O R G A
R E I T E R A T E M O N A S T E R Y

No third time lucky for Norths

By Hamish Wareham

For the third time this season fierce local rivals TFS North Wellington and Tawa did battle having met once in round robin competition and once in the Chatham Cup.

Tawa won both games by a single goal – 3-2 and 4-3 respectively.

Saturday started in similar fashion to many Tawa games so far this season with golden boot leader Sam Staunton opening the scoring in just the fourth minute.

Lachie Macgregor equalized with an absolute wonder goal in the 23rd minute, however Staunton had Tawa back in front just four minutes later.

A 15 minute brace from North Wellington captain Miles Woodhall took his goal tally to seven for the season.

Much like Tawa's earlier equaliser, North Wellington weren't in the lead for long with Ethan Phelan equalising for Tawa in the 65th minute.

Last goal wins rang true for Tawa

in the 81st minute, when Staunton scored his seventh goal against North Wellington out of the twenty he's scored this year in all competitions, notching up his fifth hattrick of the year so far with three league games remaining.

After denying Miramar Rangers a Central League title last week, barring an absolute miracle, Waterside Karori set their eyes on league leaders Napier City Rovers in their round 16 Central League encounter.

Despite frustrating Rovers for the

best part of half an hour, a 29th minute goal from the in-form Benjamin Stanley dampened Karori's spirits. Things were looking up for the blink of an eye when Albie Francis-Alles equalized in the 43rd minute.

However, in their next attack Napier retook the lead back through a former Wharfies player Luca Barclay.

Leo Brown killed the game off for Napier despite nearly reducing the deficit to one with a strike from distance in the dying stages.

Karori's three game unbeaten run came to a halt at the hands of Napier in a 3-1 defeat.

Three second half goals kept Waterside Karori women a point behind Petone in second spot on the women's Central League ladder.

A brace from Sophie Burchfield and a Natalie Orellana goal saw Wharfies avenge a 2-0 earlier season defeat to Palmerston North United with a 3-0 victory at Te Whaea.

KRA annual meeting next month

The Karori Residents' Association will hold its annual general meeting at 7pm on Monday 7 September via Zoom.

The guest speaker this year is William Woods from Centrepoint.

William will speak on the upcoming construction work at the Interislander ferry terminal area at Kaiwharawhara.

This work is scheduled to start soon and will continue through to 2029.

The annual meeting will also be informed about what the association has achieved over the past year and will look at what it is working on for 2026-27.

To access the Zoom link visit the Karori Residents' Association Facebook page.

Stop Tiaki Wai protest

Stop Tiaki Wai is holding a protest on 20 August in a bid to seek significant change to the Tiaki Wai set up.

After meeting at 11:30am at Frank Kitts Park, opposite the Wellington City Council Chambers in 2 Harris Street, the protest will march to Parliament.

The protest "is against the action of Tiaki Wai," says Guy Nunns, one of the founders of Stop Tiaki Wai.

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

The march is calling for:

- democratic accountability to be restored;
- competitively managed affordable water services, producing a significant reduction in the water bills;
- any future water bill increases limited to the rate of increases to superannuation;
- an independently audited, fully costed 10-year financial plan;
- meaningful consultation with households before major projects proceed; and
- existing infrastructure problems to be fixed before billions more are borrowed.

"Households demand the restoration of their right to have a meaningful say before they are locked into decades of higher charges and debt," Guy says.

"Our country has become unaffordable," Tiaki Wai says on its Facebook page.

"This needs to change.

"Say no to the exorbitant, unaccountable water costs.

"Be the change you want to see.

"Join the protest. Together we are strong."

Stop Tiaki Wai's mission is "to restrict Tiaki Wai's ability to incur significant new debt or begin projects until democratic accountability is restored, affordability is addressed and meaningful consultation has taken place."

Tiaki Wai's forecasted billing is set to triple in 10 years. The forecast water bill for 2027 is \$2,100, and for 2036 it is \$6,200.

"Forecasted water charges will bankrupt many home owners," Stop Tiaki Wai says.

It also noted the charge for water metres for each household is \$4,000, and asks if the metres are "gold plated".

Loss of democratic accountability and flawed governance is also among the series of issues Stop Tiaki Wai raises.

It also says "public consultation on Tiaki Wai was a sham" and there is an "alarming conflict of interest within the Tiaki Wai governance structure".

It further notes that the "Commerce Commission and others have raised major concern".

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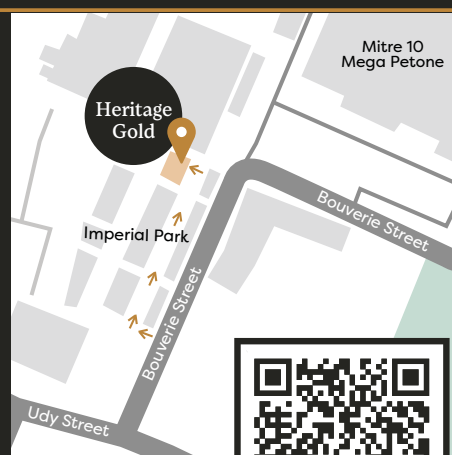
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