

Thursday September 10, 2026



Today 5-14



Friday 7-14



Saturday 7-13



Sunday 8-15

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Gallery packed for MP's valedictory

By Frank Neill

Parliament's Gallery was almost completely packed for the valedictory speech of Ōhāriu's last Member of Parliament, Greg O'Connor on September 2.

The very popular MP gave a highly unusual speech too. It was presented in rhyming verse.

Continued on page 2.

Ōhāriu MP Greg O'Connor delivering his valedictory speech. Photo: Frank Neill.



Ōhāriu MP Greg O'Connor delivering his valedictory speech. Photo: Frank Neill.

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A privilege experienced by few

Continued from page 1.

As Mr O'Connor said in his speech:
 "A valedictory's a oncer,
 A privilege experienced by few,
 So I thought consigning it to verse
 Would afford the moment its due.

"There were other options,
 Plenty of genres I could tap,
 I thought it might test the Speaker's patience,
 If I'd presented today in rap.

"So, bow out I do before you,
 A humbling number have returned the
 RSVP.
 Not all MPs are afforded this privilege,
 Many a parliamentary exit is involuntary.

"I arrived nine years past.
 With Ōhāriu's blessing,
 Though with a small-enough margin,
 That kept us till final count guessing.

"To the good folk of my electorate,
 I'll always remain beholden,
 Great local support,
 Does the MP on their behalf embolden."

Mr O'Connor also reflected on his time in
 Parliament.

"So I reflect on my time in this place.
 Nine years has gone incredibly fast,
 Proudly part of a mighty continuum
 Which us all will long outlast.

"I did manage a member's bill
 That passed through the House with ease,
 A law to curtail paedophiles' opportunities
 To offend against kids overseas.

**Ōhāriu MP Greg O'Connor delivering his valedictory speech.** Photo: Frank Neill.

"Ultimately, Parliament's job is to pass laws,
 So I suppose in that regard I had some success,
 But it's the work we do for our constituents
 That rarely gets into the press."

Perhaps unsurprisingly Mr O'Connor also
 spoke about the Johnsonville Mall, and its future.

"Back to the topic of that mall,
 I met my office landlady in exactly the
 same spot.
 Within a month of being elected,
 I had secured staff and a location hot.

"But while that mall proved a fertile
 recruiting ground,
 Sadly, attempts to secure a rebuild have
 been frustrated.
 In any survey of what annoys my locals,
 'That bloody mall' is always top rated.

"The powers of a local MP
 Can't override land-banking calls.
 As Ronald Reagan would say to the Aussie
 owners,
 "Stride, bulldoze down those walls."

Mr O'Connor also reflected on leaving
 Parliament.

"Now, sadly, I relinquish my Ōhāriu role,
 The electorate cruelly dissolved with the
 stroke of a pen.
 Normally when an MP says they lost their
 seat,
 Some beggar has nicked it off of them.

"In my case it's disappeared,
 Gone to the graveyard of electorates past.
 I wonder, if it was held by a senior Minister,
 Whether the axe would've come down as
 fast!

"Ōhāriu's now divided in three,
 Leaving locals to work out their new voting
 zone.
 Of course, it'll now take three MPs
 To do the job I used to do on my own.

"I leave here with faith in the institution
 That to an outsider can seem quaint and
 confusing.
 But it does the job it's meant to do,
 Though the how can leave many musing.

"We could do with slowing legislation's
 pace.
 Many bills are pushed through way too fast.
 Another layer of genuine debate
 Might give more laws the chance to
 last."

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**Greg O'Connor
MP for Ōhāriu**

Last week I delivered my valedictory address to Parliament. This is the final speech an MP makes to the House prior to retirement. It's an opportunity to summarise their time there, and make observations about Parliament, fellow parliamentarians, and the world in general. The time allocated for the speech is determined by the length of service. I had 20 minutes for my speech.

It is a great exercise in reflection, and while essentially backward looking, it does help me to put a full stop on that part of life.

I chose to deliver mine in rhyming verse. I find putting ideas into a four-line stanza forces me to be pretty concise about what I'm saying.

It was also a great opportunity to fill Parliament's public gallery with family, friends and people who've helped me do my job over the years.

I expressed my gratitude to my staff members, Leanne in the Johnsonville Office, and Susan at Parliament, both of whom did a brilliant job of keeping me directed and grounded.

So, all in all, it was a nice way to finish my time at Parliament. It's a shame the Ōhāriu electorate has disappeared, but as we all learn in life, nothing stays the same forever, and I now look for my next opportunity.

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

Low confidence in council decision-making

By Frank Neill

Confidence in council decision-making is low in Wellington, the latest Quality of Life survey shows.

Of the seven North Island cities in the survey, Wellingtonians recorded the lowest confidence in council decisions.

Compared with the average of 30% who disagreed they had confidence in council decision-making, 38% of Wellington respondents said they disagreed, with 16% disagreeing strongly and 22% disagreeing.

The two-yearly survey questioned 5,725 residents aged 18 and over in Wellington, Porirua, Hutt, Dunedin, Hamilton, Auckland and Tauranga.

Wellingtonians continue to report high quality of life in the latest survey.

However, they are less positive about the city itself, and concerns about the cost of living remain prominent.

Eighty percent of Wellingtonians rate their personal quality of life positively, above the seven-city average of 76% and behind only Dunedin at 83%.

Wellington performs well on measures like walkability, usage of public transport, access to green spaces, and inclusion and culture.

However, residents are feeling less positive about the city itself than about their personal circumstances, with Wellington recording the lowest satisfaction with the city's look and feel out of all participating cities.

Cost of living pressures continue to be the biggest factor affecting quality of life, both in Wellington and across the motu.

Mayor Andrew Little says Wellington's economic challenges, cost of living pressures and the loss of trust and confidence in our institutions have made a demonstrable impact on residents' perceptions about our city,



Wellington Mayor Andrew Little. Photo: Supplied.

but they have not erased the qualities that made the capital successful.

"It is clear that there is much the council and civic leaders must change to lift residents' perceptions and restore trust and confidence in council, and as Mayor, I will be accountable to improving these measures.

"Wellington has advantages that similar cities cannot easily reproduce: compactness, walkability, and abundant birdsong amid majestic natural environments; matched with culture, hospitality, world-class education, creative talent, a highly-educated workforce and a burgeoning tech sector that provides high-value jobs.

"Combining these social, cultural and economic assets with close connections between businesses, universities, government and decision-makers, it is also clear that Wellington starts from a position of strength.

"We must acknowledge the challenges we face and not resile from the task ahead, and we also should recognise that Wellington has the talent, natural attributes and charac-

ter to maintain our position as one of the world's most liveable cities," Mayor Little says.

Other key findings for Wellington are:

- Wellington residents remain relatively positive about their personal circumstances but less positive about the city itself;
- Wellington has the lowest rating of all participating cities for satisfaction with the city's look and feel (39%);
- Perceptions that Wellington has become a worse place to live remain high;
- Cost of living pressures continue to be the dominant factor influencing people's declining quality of life; and
- Compared with earlier surveys, Wellington has experienced a decline in both overall quality of life and perceptions of the city as a place to live.

The 2026 Quality of Life survey, a partnership of seven New Zealand councils (Wellington, Porirua, Hutt, Dunedin, Hamilton, Auckland, and Tauranga), took place between 2 March and 22 May 2026.

The survey was conducted by Ipsos.



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Greg O'Connor MP for Ōhāriu

Spokesperson for Courts and Veterans' Affairs
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Labour



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

Northern Ward by-election nominations open

By Frank Neill

Nominations are now open for Wellington City Council's Takapū/Northern Ward by-election.

The by-election follows the death of Councillor Tony Randle in August.

Nominations opened on 3 September to decide who will represent the ward for the remainder of the 2025-2028 term, and they close at noon on Thursday 1 October.

The by-election will be conducted by postal vote, and people who are enrolled can expect to receive their voting packs in the mail from 9 November, the day voting starts.

Voting will close at noon on Friday 11 December.

About 36,000 voters are enrolled in the Takapū/Northern General Ward, which is Wellington City's most populous ward and includes the suburbs of Churton Park, Glenside, Grenada North, Grenada Village, Horokiwi,

Johnsonville, Newlands, Ōhāriu, Paparangi, Takapū Valley, Tawa and Woodridge.

Deputy Electoral Officer Meipara Poata encourages people to stand in the by-election.

"Standing for council lets local people have a voice in the decisions that shape their futures," Meipara says.

"We encourage anyone who is passionate about their community to consider standing for election.

"As an elected member you will be responsible for many things that matter to your community, including planning for the city's future, setting rates and bylaws, and engaging with the public to help shape your decision-making.

"We need candidates from diverse backgrounds, cultures, ages and experiences.

"If you are a New Zealand citizen, on the electoral roll and 18 years and over, we'd love to see you put your name forward.

"You don't need to live in the Takapū/Northern Ward to stand, but you do need to be nominated by two people who are enrolled in the ward.

"This is an opportunity to commit to making a positive difference and helping build a thriving future for our city," Meipara says.

Information about how to stand or nominate a candidate is available on the Wellington City Council website, www.wellington.govt.nz/by-election.

Three Councillors represent the Takapū/Northern Ward and the two current Councillors are Ben McNulty and Andrea Compton.

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Courtenay Place (Main Bus Stop)	1:30pm
Karori opposite The Wilson Funeral Home, (142 Karori Road, Karori)	1:40pm
Karori Library (Outside the Postshop)	1:45pm

Fare: A donation to Wellington Free Ambulance would be greatly appreciated.

Harbour City Funeral Home Guardian Wilson

Onslow Kindergarten mini gala

Onslow Kindergarten will run a fun-filled mini gala from 10am to 1pm on Sunday 27 September.

Nestled in the heart of Khandallah, Onslow Kindergarten is located at 1A Delhi Crescent.

"Our Mini Gala is a wonderful opportunity to bring our kindergarten and wider community together for a morning of fun, bargains and delicious treats," Onslow Kindergarten says.

"There will be raffles, home baking, a sausage sizzle, pre-loved clothing, books, toys and household items, as well as a lucky dip and fun games for the kids.

"Cash and coins are preferred, but eftpos will be available.

"Whether you're a current or past Onslow Kindergarten whānau, a local resident, or simply looking for a fun morning out with the family, we'd love to see you there.

"Rain or shine everyone is welcome. Come along, have some fun, grab a bargain and support our wonderful not-for-profit kindergarten.



Four Onslow Kindergarten children sitting under a poster for their mini gala. Photo: Supplied.

"We look forward to seeing you there."

Onslow Kindergarten is a not-for-profit preschool where learning is fun, engaging and meaningful.

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The team at the Karori Community Patrol's Safer Plates Day. Photo: Supplied.

Successful Safer Plates Day

By Frank Neill

The recent Karori Community Patrol's Safer Plates Day went "really well" Patrol Co-Leader Andrea Skews says.

Held at Mitre 10 Crofton Downs' trade yard, the event offered car owners screws that protect their number plates from being stolen. "We had 70 cars fitted with new screws on their number plates.

"Mitre 10 gave us the site, which was fantastic."

Ms Skews and her fellow Karori Community Patrol Co-Leader Melissa Turner say that there has been a rise in the number of licence plates that have been stolen since petrol prices went up.

The thieves particularly target cars that are parked a little way from the house.

People who had the anti-theft screws fitted

made a koha and the Safer Plates Day raised \$478.50 for the Karori Community Patrol.

The Upper Hutt Community Patrol and local community Police also attended and helped organise and run the event.

Senior Constable Lewis Diamond from the Johnsonville Police and Karori Community Constable Chris Wake were among those who attended.

Safer plates involve replacing standard licence 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.

As well as fitting anti-theft screws, the Karori Community Patrol also received three enquiries from people about joining the Patrol.



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Local history – Nga Hau E Wha

By Felicity Wong

In 1993 the Nga Hau E Wha O Paparangi Society Inc leased 4.6 hectares of land on Ladbrooke Road, Newlands from Wellington City Council.

It had been the site of the office for the Newlands tip, now long closed, but with a magnificent sweeping view south to the CBD and beyond.

The society was set up in 1989 as a working group to address a community need and to realise a village community centre with a focus on Maori cultural aspects.

A 1992 district plan change designated the site for a “village community centre, Papakāinga”.

The goals of the Papakāinga were to provide resources of knowledge; create whanaungatanga (family bonds); and provide community education at all levels.

At the time the concept of Papakāinga involved a whare tipuna (ancestral house); whare kai (dining facilities); kōhanga reo (language nest); kāinga kaumatua (flats for the elderly); toilets; and kokiri (work skills).

The only similar endeavours at the time were Waiwhetu Marae in Lower Hutt; Nga Pōneke Marae, Thorndon Quay; Maraeroa Marae, Warspite Avenue Waitangirua; and Ngāti Toa Marae, Elsdon Porirua.

The society was given the old Johnsonville Town Hall, situated on Moorefield Road, and removed to make way for the Johnsonville swimming pool and park.

The hall was put to good use, open to the whole community, within a Māori cultural context.

It seems however that the society was more welcoming of the wider community than the immediate neighbours were (worrying about noise from people having too good a time).

Nevertheless, the society worked hard and today is accepted as a welcome and valuable part of the wider community.

While Māori protocol is observed, when it was initially set up it was not felt that “marae” was the right word to describe its intent to have a community focus for the residential area of Newlands and beyond.

Although the concept was based

on a traditional marae, when it was set up it was described as having “adapted to its particular site and to the needs of the adjacent residential areas”. Since then it has evolved more into a marae concept and now describes itself as such.

At some point the historic hall suffered a fire but was rebuilt with Council assistance, with the society appealing to the idea of the “the Papakāinga having the potential to become a valuable institution in the progression to a truly multi cultural society.”

“It is community based rather than tribal and addresses future needs rather than historic ones.”

Onslow Historical Society recently hosted the Chair Mamari Stephens, the former Chair Hone Tibble and secretary Leighsah Rawiri to hear about their history and plans.

Hone Tibble related engaging stories of the genesis of what has evolved into a thriving urban marae, an idea supported by his father, the local Johnsonville and Newlands policeman.

With the passing of time, Hone’s reminiscences of the challenges for



The historic Johnsonville Town Hall used by Nga Hau e Wha o Paparangi. Photo: Supplied.

rural Māori migrating to the big smoke were very amusing.

Memories involved a time when the local Johnsonville policeman looked out for local teenagers and helped with the challenges for Māori of adjusting to a new urban context.

Having community links eased the challenges and supported community wellbeing.

Today the marae is involved in a large range of positive activities from kapa haka to restoring and planting native bush.

Looking to the future, Mamari

explained that the society aims to gain ownership of the leased site and to build a new wharenui (meeting house), to replace the old unsuitable hall. Ambitious plans involve a papakāinga type housing development as well. Stronger links to mana whenua are also being sought.

Open days are regularly held along with other community events.

See the website, <https://nhewop.org.nz/>, for more information about how to get involved.

There’s a hāngī pit and hall hire is available.

Talk to your LOCAL PHARMACY

Indigestion and heartburn are extremely common, especially after eating or drinking too much, or when meals are rushed. For many people these symptoms are occasional, but for others they occur more frequently and can cause significant discomfort. The good news is that your Self Care pharmacist can offer helpful advice and treatment options.

Indigestion, or dyspepsia, often causes nausea, gas, or a bloated feeling in the stomach. Self Care pharmacists explain that indigestion “causes discomfort and pain in the area between your ribs and belly button, and occurs during eating or immediately after.” Heartburn is a common symptom, recognised by a burning sensation rising from the stomach towards the throat. This happens when stomach acid refluxes back into the oesophagus, irritating its lining.

Indigestion and heartburn can be triggered by many factors, including foods such as cabbage, onions, cucumber, curries, and chocolate; drinks like alcohol, fizzy beverages, strong coffee, and tea; eating too quickly; consuming fatty or large meals late at night; stress, anxiety, smoking, bending or

stooping, and being overweight. Pregnancy and certain medicines, including aspirin and other anti-inflammatory pain relievers, can also contribute.

Identifying and avoiding your personal triggers can make a big difference. If your medicines cause symptoms, speak with your pharmacist or doctor. Taking medicines with food and a full glass of water, while sitting or standing upright, may help reduce discomfort. Self Care pharmacists emphasise that lifestyle changes can play a major role in preventing indigestion and heartburn. These include stopping smoking, avoiding rich or spicy foods, eating smaller meals, staying physically active for at least 30 minutes most days, losing weight if needed, and practising good sleep and relaxation habits. For many people, these measures alone can significantly reduce symptoms.

If medicines are required, pharmacies offer a range of short-term treatments. Antacids provide quick relief by neutralising stomach acid, while alginates form a protective “raft” that helps prevent reflux. If symptoms occur frequently or do not improve, other medicines



RELIEVING INDIGESTION & HEARTBURN

that reduce acid production may be appropriate. In some cases, pharmacists can supply these without a prescription.

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Founded in Adelaide in 1984 by Robert Sullivan, Go-Kan-Ryu Karate draws on traditional Japanese karate and welcomes people of all ages and abilities. Training is non-contact, making it a fun and encouraging activity for the whole family.

During the first week of the holidays, GKR will be at Queensgate Shopping Centre, Lower Hutt. The second week brings sessions at GKR Karate Johnsonville and the new Moera, Lower Hutt location. The Moera class has been confirmed for 5-9yr olds 4.30pm-5.30pm every Wednesday from the start of Term 4.



Have you been to Pūkaha National Wildlife Centre lately?

Just 20 minutes north of Masterton, Pūkaha National Wildlife Centre is the perfect day out for families, nature lovers and anyone looking to reconnect with the ngahere these school holidays.

Come and meet some of Pūkaha's special residents, including our curious eels, cheeky kākā, precious kiwi and adorable kiwi chick. There's plenty to discover throughout the sanctuary, with opportunities to learn more about the native species we're working to protect.

For those wanting to stretch their legs, the Pūkaha Loop Track takes around two hours and offers beautiful views through the ngahere – perfect for a more active adventure.

During the school holidays, tamariki can enjoy a fun Pūkaha hunt as they explore the sanctuary. Visitors can also donate towards feeding a kiwi, with every donation going into the draw to win a special kiwi encounter.

Make a day of it and experience one of the Wairarapa's most unique wildlife destinations. Find out more at pukaha.org.nz.

Karori Arts & Crafts Spring School Holidays

Karori Arts & Crafts has creative activities for children lined up for the Spring School Holidays. Our fun, hands-on sessions are

designed for primary school-aged children, with younger children welcome with an adult.

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Dinosaur Diorama- Tuesday, 29 September
Animal Books- Wednesday, 30 September
Giant Beetles, Bugs, & Butterflies - Thursday, 1 October
Driftwood Creatures - Monday, 5 October
Take Flight - Tuesday, 6 October
Pop-up Books - Wednesday, 7 October
Cardboard Animal Masks -Thursday, 8 October
For full details, please visit the website: <https://www.kacc.org.nz/school-holiday>



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simply for the joy of making."

This happens within historic Inverlochry House, which the school has been kaitiaki of since 1987. Keeping courses affordable means profits are minimal, and the school relies on volunteers and donors to help maintain the heritage building. You don't need to be a student to experience Inverlochry House. The gallery is open weekdays from 10am-2pm, with heritage tours also available. The next, exploring the school's haunted history, takes place on 25 October, ahead of Halloween.



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The school holidays can feel endless when you're trying to keep the kids entertained affordably. Just five minutes from central Wellington, Zealandia Te Māra a Tāne offers a fun, affordable way for families to get outdoors and explore nature together.

For even better value, a family membership gives the whole whānau unlimited general admission for a whole year. That means adventures well beyond the school holidays.

These holidays, kids can enjoy special activities including crafts, lively puppet shows,

and Kids Night Walks, where tamariki can discover the wildlife that emerges after dark. Members also receive discounts on tours.

The sanctuary is home to wildlife such as kākā, tuatara and tieke, with something new to discover on every visit. After exploring, relax at Rātā Café with treats, lunches and great coffee.

A day at Zealandia is a chance to enjoy fresh air, family time and unforgettable wildlife encounters.

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What's cool in the Wairarapa

Junior Rangers are back at Pūkaha this spring

This spring, tamariki are invited to step into the ngahere, get their hands dirty and discover what it really means to be a kaitiaki.

Pūkaha's popular Junior Rangers programme is back, offering young nature-lovers the chance to explore, ask questions

and get involved in conservation through four hands-on sessions.

From nests and eggs to insects, waterways and practical conservation challenges, each session will uncover another part of the incredible natural world right here at Pūkaha.

The adventure begins with nests and eggs, where tamariki will discover how our native birds raise their young and learn about the important role we can all play in protecting them. Then it's time to get up close with the fascinating world of insects and find out why these tiny creatures are so important to a healthy ngahere.

Next, tamariki will become Nature Heroes, taking on practical conservation challenges and discovering that looking after the taiao is something everyone can be part of.

The programme finishes with Finding Out Your Wai, an exploration of Pūkaha's waterways and the incredible life they support. It's a chance to see our waterways from a different perspective and understand why protecting them matters.

More than just a series of outdoor activities, Junior Rangers is about building a lasting connection with nature. It's about giving tamariki the freedom to explore, the confidence to have a go and the opportunity to see themselves as kaitiaki of the taiao.

So, if your tamariki are curious about the natural world and ready for a little adventure, Junior Rangers is the perfect place to start.

Ready to get involved? Find out more and book your place at Pūkaha Junior Rangers.



Tora trail and accommodation beckons for Holidays - exclusivity guaranteed

In 2025, Ben and Georgie Lutyens opened The Last Resort Walk, a trail from Riversdale Station to the Wairarapa's rugged east coast between Tora and White Rock.

Ben's family has six generations of Wairarapa history, and the couple wanted to share their rustic, charming property through a unique outdoor experience. The 11km trail leads to The Last Resort accommodation, with a loop return the next day. Guests can extend their stay with a 7-10km beach track, while bike and horse trekking are also

available. Bookings are exclusive, making the experience ideal for families and groups of friends.

Self-catering accommodation includes a fully equipped kitchen, hot tub and spectacular views. Luggage and food are transported, with everything prepared for guests' arrival.

The walk also has a bike and horse trekking option, an addition to their existing heavenly-horsetreks.co.nz providing opportunities for groups to tailor their visit.

Kuripuni Bar and Tavern: A Place with Character

Kuripuni Bar & Tavern is the kind of place where a warm welcome, easy-going atmosphere and entertainment come together. A local pub, it brings together Wairarapa locals, sports fans, friends and guests looking to relax and enjoy company.

Big screens show live sporting events and UFC action, creating an electric atmosphere for big games. Racing fans are well catered for, with Kuripuni being the only pub in the Wairarapa with a TAB manned terminal and three

SSTs. When the weather is fine, the Outdoor Garden Bar lets guests enjoy drinks while keeping up with the action.

There's plenty to do, including two free pool tables, darts and gaming. Knockout Pool runs Thursdays at 7pm, while Quiz Night is held on the first Wednesday of every month at 7pm.

For food, Re-Burger serves burgers—perfect with a cold drink and good company. It's a relaxed spot for games, laughs, sport and friendly hospitality.

These holidays find out about the life and times of the early Wairarapa

Find out about William Hastwell, the man who got Wairarapa moving, in our new exhibition. What must it have been like to make sure the mail got through the hazardous ranges through rivers and howling winds?

You can see the original stables and the cobbles that were the foundation of his business and get your photo taken in the Glass Coach or the replica stagecoach.

The history really does come alive at Cobblestones but why not also bring a picnic to enjoy in our extensive gardens.

Explore the old one classroom school, the original church, built and shared by

all the different denominations, the tiny cottage that was home to a family with ten children.

Find out about shearing and the first flocks of sheep in the 170 year old woolshed. You can even ride the 1955 Fire Engine on open days. Enjoy experiencing our New Zealand Heritage.

Cobblestones is part of the famous Festival of Christmas in Greytown, an ideal place for a cosy winter weekend.

To find out about special events, open days, and spring opening hours check Cobblestones Facebook page or our website www.cobblestonesmuseum.org.nz.

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It's the Twelfth Night of Much Ado about Romeo & Juliet!

Forty-six exceptional young actors and student directors will engage with the Bard and each other to present yet more fresh takes on Shakespeare's works with three 40 minutes of scenes from Twelfth Night, Much Ado About Nothing and Romeo and Juliet. These future stars have been selected from the 5,000 talented rangatahi who participated in Shakespeare Globe Centre NZ's Victoria University of Wellington Regional and National Festivals (SGCNZ VUW R&NSF).

Under the direction and mentoring of James Wenley, Danny Mulheron and Grace Hoete respectively, these young actors and directors will spend nine days in the rigorous and invigorating course, SGCNZ National Shakespeare Schools Production (SGCNZ NSSP).

SGCNZ is delighted that The Freemasons Foundation is assisting with polishing the excellence of these rangatahi for their future careers. The Foundation's Chair, Mark Winger, says "We are delighted for this opportunity to provide support that will benefit the community, encouraging excellence in our young, helping them to develop their skills and possibly giving them that first step up to fulfilling their dreams."



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Busy year for Karori Residents Association

Another busy year has passed for the Karori Residents Association (KRA), the association's Chair Andrea Skews said in her annual report, presented to the KRA annual meeting on 7 September.

This has included KRA launching Lead the Way Karori, a new initiative encouraging residents to bring forward ideas and projects they would like to start in the community.

"We hope Lead the Way Karori will encourage more residents to take the lead on projects they care about, knowing they don't necessarily have to navigate everything alone," Ms Skews said in her report.

"Not every good community idea needs to become a KRA project.

"Instead, we can help people get started by sharing our experience, contacts and networks across [Wellington City] Council, local organisations, businesses and the wider community."

KRA's work at Wrights Hill "continues through both the Rejuvenation Project and the Fortress Legacy Project, recognising the significant environmental, recreational and historical value of this special part of Karori.

"The Rejuvenation Project focuses on restoring the natural environment – clearing invasive vegetation, improving tracks and supporting native planting.

"This year KRA also helped strengthen connections between the Department of Conservation and Wellington City Council around the wider site.

"Our Fortress Legacy Project remains focused on preserving the extraordinary history held by members of the Wrights Hill Fortress Restoration Society – recording their stories for future generations. We are currently applying for funding needed to progress the documentary.

"KRA continues to provide leadership and support to the Karori Community Patrol.

"Recruitment remains an important focus as we build a strong, reliable team and increase our visibility across Karori and the western suburbs," the report said.

"Our patrollers give their time voluntarily – vehicle and walking patrols, supporting Police and assisting at community events.

"We are enormously grateful for the time and commitment of every team member," Ms Skews said in her report.

"KRA will continue to engage with



Andrea Skews, the Chair of the Karori Residents Association.

Wellington City Council, elected representatives, community organisations and residents on issues affecting Karori, while encouraging people to have their own voices heard on the matters important to them.

"Our focus for the coming year is to continue supporting the projects already under way, strengthen the relationships that make that work possible, and create opportunities for new community-led ideas through Lead the Way Karori.

"You don't have to join a committee to make a difference. If you have an idea, some expertise to share, or simply want to get involved come and talk to us," the report says.

"None of it happens without volunteers and community-minded people willing to contribute their time, knowledge and energy.

"I am enormously grateful to everyone who has worked alongside KRA this year, and very proud of what we have collectively achieved for Karori," Ms Skews said.

The existing KRA committee was re-elected at the annual meeting.

The committee is: Andrea Skews, Chair; Derek Neale, Treasurer; Belinda Hussey, Secretary; and committee members John Sinclair, Navleen Bindra and Riley Fraser.

Celebrating Kaiwharawhara

Trelissick Park will come alive with a free family event to celebrate Kaiwharawhara on Saturday 17 October.

Te Rā o Te Kaiwharawhara – Celebrating Te Kaiwharawhara will run from 10am to 2pm at Trelissick Park's Kaiwharawhara Powder Magazine Heritage Site.

Entrance to this heritage site is via Gate 6, Kaiwharawhara Road.

Kia Mouriora Te Kaiwharawhara invites

everyone to join them for a spring day of family fun that will feature nature talks, games and music as well as food and more.

The event is suitable for all ages.

The event brought by Kia Mouriora Te Kaiwharawhara, Ahumai Limited, CentrePort Wellington. Mountains to Sea Wellington, Trelissick Park Group, Wellington City Council and Zealandia Te Māra a Tāne.

Correction

The incorrect start date for the Wellington Heritage Festival was printed in last week's 'Independent Herald'. The festival runs from 24 October (not 2 October as stated) until 15 November this year.

The wrong photo was placed on page

13 alongside the article "Talk on Tinakori Road history". The photo was not number 75 Tinakori Road, as incorrectly stated.

The 'Independent Herald' apologises for these two errors.

Waitohi exhibition by local rangatahi

A new exhibition, Ōku Wāhi – My Places, is currently running at Waitohi Hub in the upper ground link space.

Ōku Wāhi features personal stories from local rangatahi whaiora (young people seeking wellness) sharing their journeys with early psychosis and what it means to live well alongside these experiences.

Told through film, photography, illustration and interactive displays, this collection invites conversation and reflection on how our spaces and places nurture wellbeing, identity, relationships, whenua, wairua and whānau.

The collection was collaboratively de-

veloped with rangatahi whaiora as part of the Te Hekenga Whaiora research project.

This is a joint project between Te Herenga Waka | Victoria University of Wellington and Ōtākou Whakaihū Waka | Otago University, which aims to support young people in their journeys experiencing psychosis in Pōneke Wellington.

The exhibition is open from 10am to 7pm Monday to Friday, and 10am to 4pm Saturday and Sunday.

Ōku Wāhi – My Places will close on 18 October.

Te Hekenga Whaiora's website is at <https://movingwithpsychosis.org/>.

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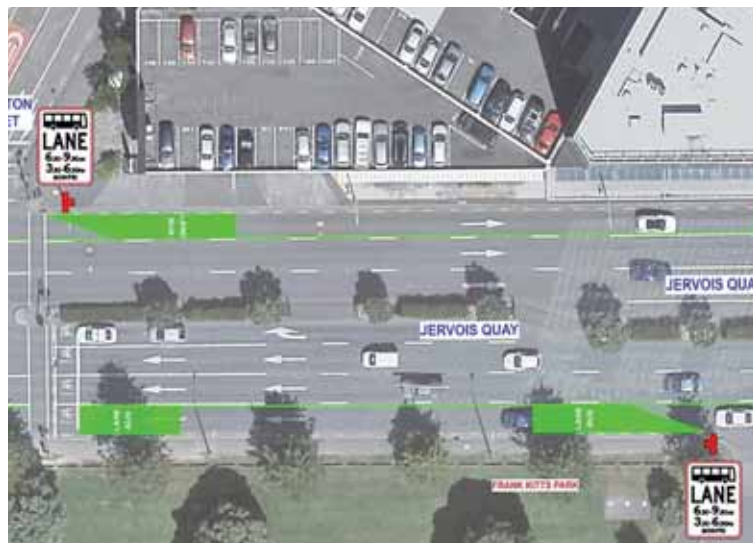
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Is Harbour Quays project right?



A section of the plan of the proposed Harbour Quays project, showing the two traffic lanes that will be lost to become bus only lanes marked in green.

Wellington-led project to which Wellington city ratepayers contribute 22%, makes prioritisation even more important.

"Ratepayers can't simply be expected to absorb ever-increasing costs.

"Both councils need to be prepared to reassess projects when circumstances change."

"Projects can develop momentum after years of planning and investment. Good decision-making means being prepared to revisit earlier assumptions and not proceed when circumstances change," the three Councillors say.

Three Wellington City Councillors – Councillors Diane Calvert, Andrea Compton and Karl Tiefenbacher – have asked to address Greater Wellington Regional Council today, 10 September, ahead of key decisions on the proposed \$11 million Harbour Quays project.

The three Councillors say in a media release that the circumstances in which Harbour Quays was developed have changed significantly.

Fellow independent Councillor colleagues Nicola Young and Ray Chung are also concerned about the proposal, as too was the late Tony Randle, the three say.

"Wellington's transport landscape has moved on.

"The previous Golden Mile project has been stopped, with the Golden Mile instead continuing as the central city's main pedestrian and bus corridor.

"State Highway 1 improvements are still being developed, while the population and bus patronage growth originally anticipated have not eventuated.

"Despite all these existing changes, we still don't have an integrated transport network plan for the central city yet are planning even more change.

"Harbour Quays was designed for a different set of circumstances. Before committing public money and permanently reallocating scarce road space, we need to be confident it is still the right priority for Wellington.

"The latest \$181 million cost increase on the Hutt's RiverLink project, another Greater

There is also an ongoing cost of up to \$214,000 per annum through loss of paid car parking if the project proceeds.

The project will initially create peak-hour bus lanes along the waterfront for six hours per weekday, reducing general traffic lanes from three to two in each direction at its busiest time, with the ability to extend bus-lane operating hours in future.

Greater Wellington is due to consider the Harbour Quays project today, 10 September, with Wellington City Council considering the project the following week.

Nine Karori Football representatives

Nine Waterside Karori players have been selected in Capital Football's Under 18 Girls Youth National League squad.

Celeste Dickson is one of three goal keepers named in the squad.

Felicity Gould, Tori Thompson, Sophie Bull, Jade Jamieson and Daniella Donn are among the seven defenders selected.

Midfielders Kate Mills and Ruby Davis are among the eight names in the squad of 25.

Zoe Mills was the sole Waterside Kaori attacker among the seven selected.

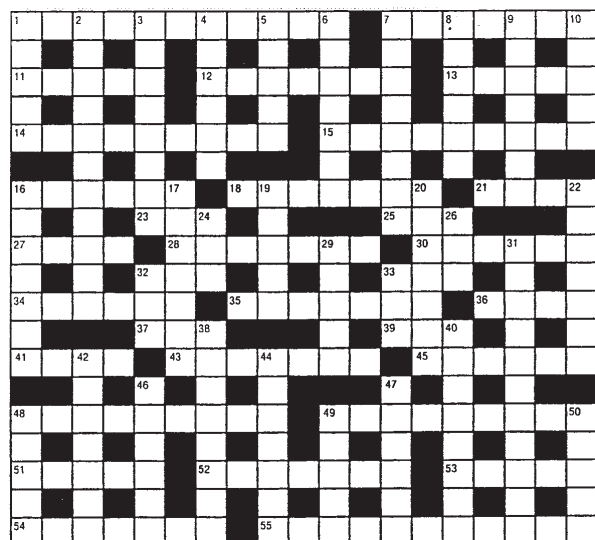
The schedule of matches had not been announced when this issue of the 'Independent Herald' went to print.

All the team's home fixtures will take place at Memorial Park in Petone.

The team will be coached by Rachel Finlay and Jeremy Young is the assistant coach.

Jenna Reddy is the team manager, Crawford Plenderleith the goal keeper coach, Caeshlyn Murdoch the physiotherapist and Steeve Sharpe the Federation Development Manager.

CROSSWORD Puzzle



ACROSS

1. Sham (11)
7. Prattle (7)
11. Bygone (5)
12. Upstart (7)
13. Rustic (5)
14. Narrow in outlook (9)
15. Tower Of London warden (9)
16. Round, close fitting hats (6)
18. Deep crimson colour (7)
21. Dress (4)
23. Longing (inf) (3)
25. Cathedral city (U.K.) (3)
27. Christmas (4)
28. Without purpose (7)
30. Sign of authenticity (6)
32. Leather boring tool (3)
33. Dandy (3)
41. Incorrect (6)
35. Swift animal (7)
36. Holiday house (4)
37. Range of knowledge (3)
39. Male cat (3)
41. Russian emperor (4)
43. Injures (7)
45. Attorney (6)
48. Kiwi rugby team (3-6)
49. Breed (9)

51. Wanderer (5)
52. Relish served with fish (7)
53. Sequence (5)
54. Unpredictable (7)
55. Distance measuring instrument (5-6)

DOWN

1. Horse's hindquarters (5)
2. Be in legal custody (5,6)
3. Stubbornness (8)
4. Mend (6)
5. Register (5)
6. Quiver (7)
7. Dark brown (8)
8. Concurs (6)
9. Ecclesiastical cap (7)
10. Governor (5)
16. Feast (7)
17. Marine alga (7)
19. Muslim name for God (5)
20. Intoxicating liquid (7)
22. Meat vendor (7)
24. Zero (3)
26. Bark (3)
29. Soft leather (5)
31. Clumsy (5,6)
32. Seabird (3)

33. Obese (3)
38. Drug (8)
40. Type of pasta (8)
42. Everywhere (3,4)
44. Underwriter (7)
46. Light red wine (6)
47. Stick together (6)
48. Eagles' nest (5)
49. Clear (5)
50. Mistake (5)

Solution

Last Week: 27 August 2026



Karori back in National League

By Hamish Wareham

A 7-0 final day victory over Victoria University at Karori Park, has booked a spot back in the Women's National League for Waterside Karori after they missed out last year.

Four goals in quarter of an hour from Natalie Orellana, Taylor Cooper, Jessica Woodside and an own goal had Karori celebrating before half time.

Sophie Burchfield scored her

21st goal of the season in the 53rd minute as well as goals from Margot Ramsay and Ella McMillan saw Karori end the season on 40 points after 17 games with a record of 13 wins, one draw and three defeats.

Wellington United women sealed a third successive title the week prior beating Miramar 5-1 at David Farrington Park.

They produced one final stellar performance at home on 29 August with Hannah Pilley claiming the

golden boot scoring four goals in United's 8-0 win over Palmerston North United.

Heading into round 18 of the men's Central League two competition, six teams were still vying for three spots of promotion.

The task was simple for TFS North Wellington, however.

They needed to defeat ninth placed Wainuiomata, who themselves were coming off the back of a season highlight 5-2 win over local rivals

Stop Out the week prior.

Win and North Wellington were headed back to the Central League that they were relegated from a year ago.

A goal either side of halftime from Jerram Tuck and captain Miles Woodhall – who took his season tally to 11 goals for the year so far with no doubt more to follow across the course of an under 19's campaign – was all that was needed for North Wellington to hold onto

their second place on the table that they started the round with.

They will be joined in central league next year by Taradale, who were crowned champions, Tawa who sealed their spot with a 95th minute winner from former North Wellington prodigy Nate Brosnahan and Palmerston North United.

There is a chance that one more could follow pending a playoff result regarding Western Suburbs over the course of the next three weeks.

Newlands College riders perform well

Three Newlands College students recorded a series of high placings at the North Island Secondary School Equestrian Cup, held in Taupo from 30 August to 4 September.

The four day competition saw the team compete against multiple teams in the largest equestrian event in the country.

Schools' teams comprise of three to six riders taking part in dressage, competitive trail riding (CTR), arena eventing, show jumping, show hunter and games.

Riding for Newlands College were Charlie Dimond on Willowridge Surprise, Alice Dolan on Henry's Way and Alana Leatham on Master of Magic.

Charlie gained a second and an eighth in show jumping, eighth in arena eventing and tenth in show hunter.

Alana gained a third and a tenth in show jumping, a fifth in arena eventing and an eighth in show hunter.

Alice took out sixth in arena eventing.

All four riders achieved some personal bests in various events.

The format was slightly different this year allowing composite school teams which meant an additional rider from Whitby Collegiate, Florence Edwards-Veale on Just Benji also rode in the Newlands Colours.

There were also more Wellington based schools represented this year and it was great to see the girls from all of the schools supporting each other and holding their own in class sizes which were as large as 65 riders in some instances.

It took a huge amount of hard work and training to get to this event including fundraising.

The Newlands College team would like to thank Beard Brothers for their continued support and sponsorship, Willowridge Ali Hilton for her coaching and their parents. They would also like to thank all of the organisers and sponsors of such a huge event.



Charlie Dimond in action. Photo: Supplied.



Alice Dolan competing. Photo: Supplied.



Alana Leatham riding Master of Magic. Photo: Supplied.

Dying Matters Week at the library

Dying Matters Week: cultural panel discussing traditions, rituals, religion will take place at Te Matapihi ki te Ao Nui Central Library on Sunday 13 September from 2:30pm to 4:30pm.

Four esteemed leaders will share their cultural and spiritual approach to death, dying and grief.

Tau Huirama represents Te Aō Māori, Rev. Dr Feiloaiga (Fei) Taule'ale'ausumai represents Samoan Presbyterian, Tahir Nawaz JP represents Islamic beliefs and Dr Pushpa Wood, Hinduism.

In this enlightening educational forum, they will provide an overview of their rituals, traditions, funeral practices and religion.

"Bring your curiosity for this rich tapestry of cultural diversity as there's an opportunity to ask questions in the Q & A segment immediately following these illuminating presentations," Wellington City Libraries says.

All are welcome to this free event, which is facilitated by Vicky Ellison, the Chair of the Wellington-Wairarapa Celebrants Association.)

Please arrive early to secure your seat. This event is brought to you by Go with Grace in association with Wellington City Libraries.

A free song-writing workshop with acclaimed musical duo Aro will be held at Te Matapihi ki te Ao Nui Central Library on Wednesday 16 September from 3:30pm to 5pm.

Write a waiata reo Māori with award-winning Te Tiriti-based duo Aro, made up of Charles Looker (Ngāpuhi, Te Rarawa, Ngāti Te Ata, Ngāti Mutunga) and Emily Looker.

"Through games, waiata, storytelling, and creative exercises inspired by mātauranga Māori and our connection to te taiao, participants will explore the art of bilingual songwriting in a fun and welcoming environment," Wellington City Libraries says.

"Together, you'll collaborate to create an original waiata inspired by the season, the natural world, and the stories we share.

"Whether you're an experienced songwriter, learning te reo Māori, or simply curious to create, this workshop offers a playful and meaningful space to connect with music, language, and each other.

"All events are free and seating is limited. We encourage you to arrive early to secure a seat.

Nau mai rā tātou katoa. Everyone is welcome."

Bee in the City art sculpture trail will take place from Monday 14 September until Sunday 8 November.

Bee in the City is a free giant public art trail, transforming Wellington into a vibrant outdoor art gallery that includes:

30 plus giant bee sculptures – each brought to life by kiwi artists; and

20 plus community bees – decorated by schools and local groups.

"Buzz into Te Matapihi ki te Ao Nui Central Library and see if you can find the library bees."

Visit the Bee in the City website (beeinthecity.org.nz) to download the free map app to get on the trail of the sculptures.

The trail is in support of Life Flight's lifesaving Westpac Chopper and Air Ambulance Planes and is completely free.

No one should face dementia alone

September is World Alzheimer's Month, a time when Alzheimer's and dementia organisations across the motu and around the world come together to raise awareness, challenge stigma and highlight the importance of support for people affected by dementia.

Dementia Wellington is reminding the community that no one needs to face dementia mate wareware alone. The organisation provides trusted information, resources and support to people and whānau affected by dementia – and all of its services are completely free.

A donation of just \$35 can help Dementia Wellington provide trusted information and resources to someone newly affected by dementia, often at a time when they need support the most. Donations can be made directly from bank to bank by scanning the QR code, with no credit card fees.

World Alzheimer's Month brings together people involved in dementia treatment, care and support, while encouraging communities to better understand dementia and help reduce the stigma that can surround it.

If you or someone you know would like to find out how Dementia Wellington can help,

contact the organisation's free helpline on 0800 DEMENTIA (0800 336 368).

BRAIN HEALTH...

CAN YOU DONATE BY SCANNING THIS CODE?



www.dementiawellington.org.nz



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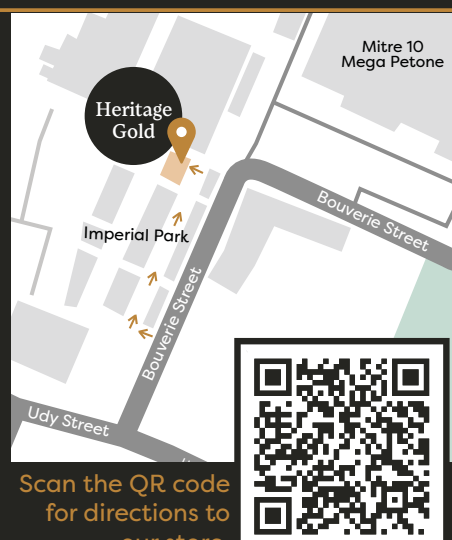
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