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The champion



By Frank Neill

Khandallah has a new cross country champion – Onslow College student Albert O'Brien.

Even though he is still a junior, Albert was the overall winner in the para class at College Sport Wellington's Cross Country Championship.

Continued on page 2.

Albert O'Brien on the podium wearing the medal as the Wellington para Cross Country champion.
Photo: Supplied.

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Very glad that I won

Continued from page 1.

His win saw Albert become the Wellington champion in the para class for the third year in a row.

"I was very tired after the race," says the Year 11 Onslow College student, who has an intellectual disability.

"I was very glad that I won. I was very happy."

Because he had a slow start to the race "other boys were in front and I had to catch up, and then I had to stay in front."

Albert followed up winning the Wellington title when he finished second in the para junior class at the National Secondary School Cross Country Championships, run at Trentham on 20 June.

This is the second year in a row that he finished second in this event.

In doing so he also finished third overall in the para class this year.

Albert began his Cross Country career in 2021 and he runs for Olympic Harriers, where he is coached by John Cope and Craig Holden.

As well as competing in cross country Albert is also a top para Track and Field athlete. He currently holds the New Zealand record for the under 17 T20 400 metres and is the current New Zealand 400 metres champion. He is the reigning North Island champion in four events – the 200 metres, 400 metres, 800 metres and long jump.

Albert's top performances were rewarded at the 2025 College Sport Wellington's Sportsperson of the Year Awards, known as the SPOTYS.

Albert won the award for the top male athlete with an intellectual disability.

"We feel really grateful that Albert has had the opportunity to do all these amazing



Albert O'Brien in action during a Cross Country race. Photo: Supplied.

events," his mother Amanda O'Brien says. "It's been amazing for him."

"It's amazing that he has been able to travel around the country to compete. It's great."

Amanda also notes that Albert "makes other people happy, and he's also very happy."

She adds that she would like to thank all the people who have helped Albert.

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Chaytor Street wall reconstruction



The Chaytor Street retaining wall. Photo: Frank Neill.

A groundbreaking ceremony for the Chaytor Street Wall reconstruction project, led by Mana Whenua, was held at 5:15am yesterday, 24 June.

The wall, which is nearly 100 years old, will be strengthened.

The current wall no longer meets modern safety standards.

Strengthening the wall ensures the long-term stability of the road corridor and safety for everyone who uses it.

The project has been a long time coming. Chaytor Street was first assessed in 2011.

In 2019 the Council engaged a consultant to undertake further investigations, develop design options, and prepare a detailed design for the preferred solution, which was completed in 2020.

Following that, Wellington City Council called for tenders. A contract has now been awarded and work is scheduled to start on 6 July.

The objectives of the project are to:

- strengthen the existing retaining wall to improve performance during

natural hazard events, particularly earthquakes;

- reduce the risk of failure and minimise disruption to the community and road corridor users;
- provide stronger structural support for roads above the wall, especially Northland Tunnel Road and Raroa Crescent;
- bring the infrastructure up to modern safety standards, addressing the risks associated with a wall nearly 100 years old;
- ensure the long-term stability of the road corridor and enhance safety for all users; and
- create a stronger, safer and more welcoming entrance to Karori – celebrating local identity while improving resilience.

A new wall will be built at the face of the existing wall.

The new wall will comprise 325mm minimum thick reinforced concrete on pile foundations, laterally tied back with rock anchors.

Community Patrols' upskilling day

By Frank Neill

Community patrollers from throughout the Wellington area came together for a training day at Bishop Viard College on 21 June.

The day was "extremely successful," says one of the main co-ordinators of the training day, Merv Theobald.

"We had over 110 people there."

They came from the 16 patrol groups in the Wellington region, including the Karori and the Wellington North Community Patrols.

The Wellington North Community Patrol was, in fact, one of the three patrols that put the training day together. The other two were Petone and Upper Hutt.

The training comprised informative sessions on nine different subjects with a series of 30 minute presentations.

Wellington Free Ambulance, the Police and Fire and Emergency New Zealand were among the presenters.

"The practical demos outside were impressive with Police dog tracking and catching the offender and not relenting his vice like bite on the offenders padded arm, until told to do so and secondly a very educational demo on fires and being able to try a fire extinguisher," Merv says.

In addition the Police provided training on observation skills.

"It was also great to finish off the day with all 110 patrollers present, standing and singing our national anthem led by a very accomplished barber shop quartet singer, Murray Smith," Merv says.

Catering for the day was provided by Bishop Viard College's Nui Chair, who are currently fund-raising for a trip to Sydney where they will compete in the Australian International Music Festival from 5 to 12 July.

Both the Wellington North and the Karori Community Patrols would welcome more volunteers to become patrollers. People interested in becoming involved can get more information at cpnz.org.nz.



Community Patrol training taking place at Bishop Viard College. Photo: Supplied.



The community patrollers at this month's training day. Photo: Supplied.



Beaudie the Police dog in action during the Community Patrol training day. Photo Supplied.

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Authorised by Greg O'Connor MP,
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inbrief news

Pool party

The term 2 Splash Bash Pool Party will be held at Johnsonville's Keith Spry pool from 4:30pm to 7pm on Saturday 27 June.

This pool party gives people an opportunity to celebrate the end of term 2 at an evening that will include a DJ, games and spot prizes.

Everyone is welcome to join the mid-winter splash bash.

"Bring friends, whānau or come solo for a fun night in the water," Keith Spry Pool says.

Entry is \$5 and people can book at <https://bookings.wellington.govt.nz/Ticket/Buy>.

The Keith Spry Pool is located at Waitohi Hub.

New Army reservist cheered by veterans she supports

A case manager for Veteran's Affairs is earning the respect of her clients while navigating newfound challenges as a New Zealand Army Reserve Force infantry soldier.

Private Gemma Board, from Tawa, joined the Reserve Force in November and completed her infantry corps training in January.

She has recently returned from Exercise Italy, a field training exercise near Whanganui, which emulated a mid-intensity South West Pacific conflict scenario. The exercise involved platoons engaging in quick attacks in open country.

Veterans' Affairs is responsible for ensuring eligible veterans, and their families, can access the support and services they need in everyday life.

Private Board says her clients have been cheering her on.

"Before coming on the Reserve Force course, I told a few of my veterans I was doing this and they were super proud," Private Board says.

"Several of them emailed me back, wished me luck and gave me little tips of what to do and what not to do around the training.

"They've backed me 100 percent. It's good to have their support behind me."

During her infantry training, Private Board learnt weapons systems, first aid, leadership training, patrolling, navigation, radio communication, and living under a 'hoochie' in typical Waiouru weather that changes daily.

"The vets told me 'Waiouru is different' and they were right about that. There were moments that pushed me out of my comfort zone.

"But I would think about the conversations I had with my veterans, and it gave me the resilience to go on.

"You've got to turn up, push through and lean on your comrades for support."

Private Board is now serving with Wellington Company, 5/7 Battalion, Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment.

"I have to do 21 days of service a year. We're a very active unit and have something going on each month."

Her unit is building towards July's Exercise Tauwharenikau, the NZ Army Reserve's



Private Board moves through terrain during Exercise Italy with 5/7 Battalion, Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment. Photo: Supplied.

largest annual exercise, which includes all of the Army's Reserve Force units as well as reservists from the Australian Defence Force.

Private Board says she played hockey for the NZ Army as a civilian, and reservists in the team gave her an insight into Reserve Force experiences.

"The moment I committed to the idea, I knew I wanted to do it. It felt completely like me."

The former Tawa College student completed a Sports and Recreation degree and worked at Work and Income in Porirua, before becoming a case manager for Veteran's Affairs three years ago.

"I enjoy the connections I build with my veterans," she says.

"No day is ever the same, and you get to know them very well and have some really

good conversations.

"When they call, they are sometimes in a vulnerable spot, and I help them through that and get them the support they need.

"I know what the veterans mean now when they talk about two families – the family you have, and your services family. Your comrades go through the hard stuff with you, they know what you're talking about."

She said it has definitely changed her perspective as a case manager.

"I feel like I can relate to my veterans in a more genuine way – not because I've been through exactly what they have, but because I've stepped into a small part of that world, and that's something I'll carry with me every day in my work.

"Also, it helps now knowing all the Army lingo."

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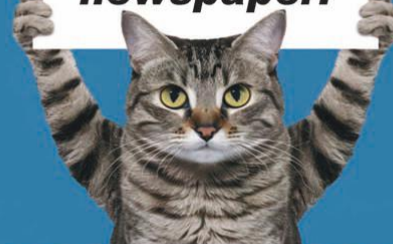
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The Opportunity Party's Kenepuru candidate Robert Mason. Photo: Supplied.

Full crowd for TOP candidate's launch

The Opportunity Party's Kenepuru candidate Robert Mason had a full crowd when he opened his campaign at the Sprig+Fern in Tawa on 13 June.

A school teacher, Robert is no stranger to politics. He stood for Whārangī/Onslow-Western in the Wellington City Council election in 2022.

He's an experienced debater, a former rugby league referee and an attentive listener.

The people attending his campaign launch were varied, from young professionals to older voters.

Some of them have been active in The Opportunity Party since 2017. Others were new to Opportunity and wanted to find out what the young party stands for, or responded to the recent door-knocking campaign in the electorate.

A quarter had never been involved with a political party before.

At the launch Robert talked about the kind of future he wants for New Zealand.

"I've got two sons. One is at university and the other is in his last year at school but I'm concerned about them," he said.

"Will they be able to get decent jobs, afford a house or start a family? What state will the economy be in by then?"

Robert got a big laugh when he talked about "roads of no significance".

"We need to be building hospitals, not roads, and making sure our kids get a good education to prepare them for the future."

Robert plans to hold informal catch-ups every weekend in cafés in the electorate so people can drop in for a coffee and a chat.

He will be at Common Ground Café at 2 pm on Saturday 27 June and at the Pacific Night Market in Cannons Creek on Friday 26 June.

The Kenepuru electorate includes Johnsonville, Ōhāriu and Tawa.



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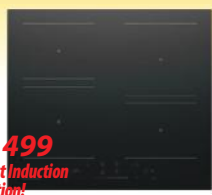
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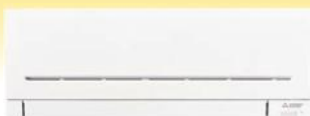
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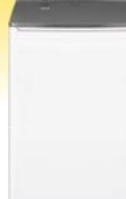
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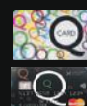
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Wellington air quality improving

Cleaner home heating and lower transport emissions is helping to improve air quality in the Wellington Region, a new state of the environment report by Greater Wellington Regional Council shows.

The report, the first in a series by the regional council, shows that while air quality is getting better in many parts of the region, issues remain – including traffic-related pollution in Wellington city's urban corridors.

Environment and Climate Committee Chair Quentin Duthie says the report reminds us that air quality is both a public health issue and an opportunity for practical action.

"The air we breathe has a direct impact on our health and wellbeing, and this report shows we cannot take clean air for granted – even in a region known for its wind," Cr Duthie says.

"The findings show we are making progress, but they also underline where more attention is needed – especially in communities where winter woodsmoke does not disperse, and in places where people are regularly exposed to traffic pollution."

The report found that while pollution from vehicle exhaust has generally declined over time, concentrations remain elevated along major transport corridors, especially the Manners Street section of the Golden Mile.

"Through our network of air quality monitoring stations and Greater Wellington expertise, the report shows us what is getting better, and where we can further improve," says Deputy Committee Chair Gabriel Tupou.

"Improving air quality and addressing energy affordability must go hand in hand, ensuring low-income households are supported to transition to cleaner home heating without sacrificing the warmth and wellbeing

of their whānau."

Senior Environmental Scientist and report author Tamsin Mitchell says the report recommends practical actions to reduce air pollution.

"Targeted support for cleaner home heating, continued electrification of public transport, and reducing congestion can all help to improve health outcomes, support climate goals, and make our towns and cities more liveable," Ms Mitchell says.

"Air pollution remains a significant and preventable public health risk, connected with over 3,000 premature deaths nationally each year, and an estimated annual social cost to our region of \$1.29 billion."

The report also highlights the benefits of bus electrification, with air quality improvements recorded along most of the Golden Mile as diesel buses have been replaced with electric vehicles (EVs).

"Twenty-five percent of Metlink buses are electric and our EV fleet continues to grow, with five electric bendy buses coming soon to Route 2," Cr Duthie says.

"However, the previous decline in pollution on Manners Street has begun to reverse. This is attributed to more diesel buses plying the route, with funding constraints preventing EV bus purchases from keeping up with growing passenger demand.

"The proposed second spine bus corridor along the harbour quays would also reduce concentrations of inner-city air pollutants, as Metlink works towards its goal of making all core service buses electric by 2038.

"Cleaner air delivers benefits well beyond the environment. It supports public health, strengthens liveability and contributes to a more resilient low-emissions future for our region," Cr Duthie says.



Antonella Sarti Evans. Photo: Supplied.

Book on Italian influence a must read

By Frank Neill

For people interested in learning more about how Italian culture has benefitted New Zealand, Antonella Sarti Evans's book 'The Other Side of the Sunset' is a must read.

It is also a very useful and interesting read for people interested in New Zealand culture generally.

'The Other Side of the Sunset' provides and in-depth history of Italian settlement in New Zealand.

That includes the significant settlement of people from Italy who came to Island Bay.

The book then looks at a series of cultural aspects of New Zealand where there has been an important Italian influence.

That includes the Italian-Māori link. As the book notes "according to New Zealand Statistics, 28% of Italians in New Zealand also identify as Māori".

The book also provides very good information on various Italian initiatives, such as the Italian Festival in Auckland, the Italian Film Festival

and Italian Design Week.

Among the many other contributions the book provides are on the influence of Italian music, books, art, restoration, landscaping, education, technology, science and sustainability.

Indeed the book is rich in culture.

An Italian-born Kiwi, Antonella lived in Broadmeadows for many years of her life.

As a literary translator and academic, Antonella was able to draw on years of data and comprehensive historical research alongside her many hours of one-on-one interviews.

Her research, (partially funded by Whiria Te Mahara NZ History Grant by Manatū Taonga, NZ Ministry for Culture and Heritage), took her deep into New Zealand archives, statistics and news stories of the past.

Through vivid stories and historical insight, her book reveals how Italian culture has woven itself deeply into the fabric of Aotearoa, creating rich and unexpected connections between languages, traditions, professions and ways of life.



The cover of 'The Other Side of the Sunset'.

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Ice melt set to intensify

New research shows surface melting across Antarctica is set to intensify and spread dramatically over the 21st century, with melt increasing by 10 times and the area affected growing by more than 10% by 2100 if global temperatures continue to rise.

The study, led by researchers from the Antarctic Research Centre at Te Herenga Waka—Victoria University of Wellington, highlights the rising risks for Antarctica's ice shelves as the climate warms.

"Our findings show Antarctic surface melting is not only increasing but spreading into new parts of the continent," the study co-author Professor Nicholas Golledge, a climate scientist at the university, says.

"This trend will continue if we keep doing business as usual. Just to stabilise melt at current levels, significant cuts in greenhouse gas emissions will likely be needed."

The study used climate models to predict how much surface ice would melt under different emissions scenarios. Results showed a stark difference between low- and high-emissions futures.

"Under a scenario in which global temperatures rise by approximately 3.5 to 4°C above pre-industrial levels, increased surface melting around the continent will leave ice shelves much more vulnerable to rapid collapse and sea-level rise," Professor Golledge says.

"In an extreme scenario where warming rises above 4°C, the risk of rapid collapse becomes even more pronounced."

Modelling showed temperature rises of about 3.5 to 4°C would likely see future surface melt extend southward into regions that have historically been largely unaffected, with an additional 1.58 million km² estimated to experience melting by 2100.

Under medium- and high-emissions scenarios, melt rates would continue to accelerate



and remain well above current levels by the end of the century.

Results showed only a low-emissions pathway would be likely to stabilise future melt at present-day levels.

Under this pathway, increases in global average temperatures would need to be well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels.

"These findings underscore the urgency of reducing emissions," Professor Golledge says. "Strong mitigation could stabilise melt, while weaker action leaves Antarctica exposed to rapidly escalating change."

"We know sea-level rise resulting from ice-sheet collapse would have major implications for coastal communities in Aotearoa New Zealand. Given our long coastline, we're particularly vulnerable to rising seas."

Expanding surface melt would not only affect the stability of the Antarctic ice shelves but would also likely result in other ecosystem changes.

"Surface melting increases water availability in summer, which may alter surface conditions. One flow-on effect is the new opportunities this could create for colonisation by invasive species in parts of the continent," he says.

The study is published in the journal Nature Communications. The work was funded by a Rutherford Discovery Fellowship from the Royal Society of New Zealand—Te Apārangi.



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Seeking fun for the whole family? Challenge their courage at Adrenalin Forest, race at the Porirua Indoor Raceway, or enjoy games at North City Tenpin and Pirate's Cove Mini Golf. The pools at Arena Aquatics provide all-weather fun, or you could snuggle up in front of a film at Lighthouse Cinema.

Then top off your adventures at Kai Tahī, the ultimate local destination to eat, drink, gather, and play together.

Get your Porirua holiday plans sorted now! Head to PoriruaNZ.com for more inspiration and event details.



Discover holiday fun in Porirua!

Make a splash at Arena Aquatics

11 JULY
Love Local Expo at Te Rauparaha Arena
10am-4pm

9-12 JULY
Don't miss the Matariki harbourside light display 5.30-9pm

Get yummy treats at Kai Tahī

Visit the friendly animals at Battle Hill Farm Forest Park

Test your detective skills at the Police Museum

7 JULY
Enjoy World Chocolate Day with Whittaker's chocolate at Pātaka Art + Museum 11am-2pm

7, 9 & 17 JULY
Enjoy outdoor games and loose parts play at Aotea Lagoon 11am-2pm



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Highway closing for repairs

Drivers heading into Wellington on State Highway 1 this Sunday and Monday nights can expect short delays and a detour as contractors complete road repairs and maintenance work near Johnsonville.

The highway will be closed to southbound traffic on Sunday and Monday nights 28 and 29 June between Glenside/Grenada and Johnsonville from 9pm to 4:30am.

Contractors will be working near Helston Bridge, digging out and repairing a section of one of the highway's southbound lanes.

They will also inspect electronic signs and gantries and complete other maintenance, including sign repairs and clearing channels.

Due to the nature of the works and the heavy equipment required, a southbound closure is necessary. This ensures the public and road

crews are kept safe and allows the work to be completed faster.

The work is timed to be done at night when fewer vehicles use the highway, minimising overall disruption to the public.

The repairs are essential maintenance and will help ensure this section of State Highway 1 remains safe and reliable for the public.

A local road detour will be available via Glenside and Johnsonville. It is on local roads with lower speed limits, and drivers should allow extra time for their journeys.

Traffic management will be set up from 7pm. Delays can be expected while this is under way.

This work is weather-dependent, and schedules may change at short notice. Drivers are encouraged to check road conditions before they travel.

Chinese headstones in Karori Cemetery

Secrets Beneath the Stone: Tracing Chinese Footprints in Karori Cemetery is a free talk that will be presented at the Karori Library by Dr Zhiyue Bo on Thursday 2 July from 5:30pm to 6:30pm.

The Chinese headstones in Karori Cemetery hold far more than carved names.

This talk reveals how these weathered inscriptions illuminate the journeys of early Chinese settlers who crossed oceans to build new lives in Aotearoa.

Through close reading of traditional characters, clan references and cultural symbols, people can trace the footprints of individuals and families whose histories have long remained in the shadows.

By situating these headstones within broader patterns of Chinese migration and community formation in the past 180 years, this talk shows how they serve as rare primary sources for reconstructing forgotten lineages so that the voices etched in stone continue to be heard by future generations.

Dr Bo Zhiyue is a leading authority on Chinese elite politics and a nominator for the world's most prestigious Tang Prize.

He is the Founder and President of the Bo Zhiyue China Institute and is frequently interviewed by international media such as BBC.

He lectured at Victoria University of Wellington and universities in the United States. He is an author and keynote speaker.

Author Event: Fantasy authors Sarah A Parker and H G Parry in conversation will be held at Te Matapihi ki te ao nui Central Library on Friday 26 June from 5:30pm to 6:30pm.

Come along and hear international bestselling fantasy authors Sarah A Parker and H G Parry, both from Aotearoa, talk about their new books.

Wellington City Libraries will be staging a very special, one-off event with two of the finest fantasy authors currently around.

This event promises to be unmissable for any fantasy fiction fan.

Both writers are renowned for their immersive world building, compelling, page-turning prose and characters that

readers deeply identify with (as evidenced by their huge popularity).

So expect an enchanting, enthralling event with revelations, deep insights into their books and writing practices and much more.

This event will be held in Ngā Pou Ruahine (Level 2).

This is a free event and all are welcome. We expect this event to be very popular and seating is limited, so please arrive early to ensure a seat.

Sarah A Parker's 'To Bleed a Crystal Bloom' series is an epic fantasy romance, which has sold millions of copies internationally and is a New York Times bestseller.

The Crystal Bloom series is regarded as an instant classic and is beloved by fans of Fourth Wing and A Court of Thorns and Roses.

Sarah's books are known for their immersive vibrant worlds, mysterious creatures, spell-binding magic, fast-paced and fantasy romance.

Sarah is a New Zealander and grew up in a farm in the Wairarapa. Her latest book is 'When the Moon Hatched'.

H G Parry is the author of several critically acclaimed fantasy novels including 'The unlikely escape of Uriah Heep', 'The Shadow Histories' duology, 'The Magician's Daughter', 'The Scholar and the Last Faerie Door' and 'A Far Better Thing'.

She holds a PhD in English Literature from Victoria University of Wellington, and lives in Wellington, with a growing menagerie of small creatures.

Her latest book 'The Witch Below the Dreaming' is due for release later this year.

The African Book Club will take place at Te Matapihi ki te ao Nui on Thursday 2 July from 5:30 pm to 6:30pm.

Come along to a book club focusing on art (books, movies, CDs) from the continent of Africa.

"We will read books from Africa with a chosen theme that we can discuss as a group each month," Wellington Libraries says.

"We will encourage collaboration, discussion and learning together.

"All are welcome to attend and share what they have enjoyed from Africa."



Catherine Warren holding a bouquet she was presented at the opening of her first solo exhibition. She is standing in front of one of her paintings. Photo: Supplied.

First solo exhibition featuring summer

Wellington artist Catherine Warren's first solo exhibition is currently taking place at Katherine Mansfield House & Garden, 25 Tinakori Road.

A Memory of a Summer Dream will run until 23 August.

Catherine explores the treasured, classic New Zealand summer's day in this exhibition of acrylic landscapes and poems.

From dawn until dusk, humble horizons, reaching branches, serene sunsets and familiar words transport viewers to another season, unlocking their cherished memories.

"Summer is a season longed for and revered in the collective Kiwi consciousness," Catherine says.

"All year we wait for summer to arrive, with

high expectations of glorious blue skies. Even in summer, I'm judging each day against the last, waiting for the perfect day."

It is easy to spot in Catherine's paintings the same landscapes that inspired the imagery in Katherine Mansfield's story 'At the Bay', imagery that is quintessentially part of the New Zealand summer.

Bring the kids along to spend some time at the activity table, where people are invited to explore their own creativity and make a poem or collage to take away.

Catherine is a Wellington artist, author, illustrator and poet. These works were created between the summers of 2023 and 2026 as an exploration into the attachment and glorification of summer.

Person dies in serious crash



One person died and a second sustained critical injuries in a crash on State Highway 1 north of Johnsonville on 19 June, the Police have confirmed.

The two vehicle crash happened between the Tawa-Grenada North onramp and the Churton Park-Glenside offramp at about 4:40pm.

The crash caused both southbound lanes on the motorway to be closed, creating long queues on the road.

One lane was later reopened and the road completely reopened shortly before 11pm after the Serious Crash Unit conducted a scene examination, the Police said.

So much to do in

KAPITI★

Jazz is back at the Mulled Wine Concerts!

Zanzibar JAZZ Ensemble with Erna Ferry

"Kapiti concert audiences are mad about jazz - from Monk (Theolonius) to Funk and Jump", says Mary Gow. She is the organiser of the Mulled Wine Concert series and has presented music ranging from classical to jazz in the region over a number of years.

A particular favourite of local aficionados was the band led by Rodger Fox, New Zealand's foremost jazz trombonist, big band leader, jazz educator, arranger and producer. Sadly, Rodger is no longer with us to lead the band, but his music lives on: musicians who played with him are still keen to bring his swinging arrangements to life.

A new group - the Zanzibar Jazz Ensemble - brings together some storied names from the New Zealand jazz world. Inspired and led by singer ERNA FERRY, the group contains such giants as Lance Philip (drums) Rory McArtney (bass) Dan Hayles (piano) Nick Granville (guitar) Kaito Walley (trombone) Ben Hunt (trumpet) and Oscar Laven (saxophone). Together they will be playing a concert at the seafront Memorial Hall in Paekakariki on Sunday 12 June. "We are excited by this new development" says Mary Gow "Audiences have enjoyed the jazz presented by Mulled Wine Concerts in the past and I'm sure that

this tradition will be continued".

Erna Ferry notes that the group has had a lot of fun putting together a programme of the music of Carmen McRae, Anita O'Day, Louis Prima and many others. "We have some new arrangements - and some surprises!"

The repertoire from the Zanzibar Ensemble will include some of Rodger Fox's favourite instrumentals, well known standards from the 30's and 40's, tunes from the last album recorded in New York in January 2024, some hot new rhythms and since jazz is a free form of expression, the expert soloists in the group will doubtless be adding their own impromptu inputs made up on the spot! The concert will be a must-see for all jazz lovers.



Mulled Wine Concerts in Paekakariki

Zanzibar JAZZ Ensemble
with Erna FerrySunday July 12 at 2.30 pm
Memorial Hall - Paekakariki

Shop outlets (CASH ONLY): Magpie Paremata,
99 Mana Esplanade - Finn's Hotel, Paekakariki,
Moby Dickens Bookshop Paraparaumu Beach - Jenoa,
2 Mahara Place, Waikanae.
www.mulledwineconcerts.com

Flute and Strings in Waikanae

On Sunday 19 July the Waikanae Music Society will present the Elouan Quartet with Bridget Douglas (flute) in a concert featuring a wide variety of music for flute and strings.

All of the ensemble are New Zealand Symphony Orchestra members and their concert is part of a nation-wide Chamber Music New Zealand tour. The performance opens with a quintet by popular Australian composer Elena Kats Chernin, followed by one of the best-loved works for flute and string - Mozart's Flute Quartet.

A novel item follows with New Zealand composer's Ken Wilson's Introduction, Theme and Variations, which will showcase Bridget Douglas playing on an extremely rare piccolo. The Elouan strings will then present one of Beethoven's legendary last works - the String Quartet No 16 in F major. On a



From left to right: Bridget Douglas (flute), Ken Ichinose (cello), Jessical Oddie (violin), Anna van der Zee (violin), Alexander McFarlane (viola).

lighter note the concert will close with Nightclub from Astor Piazzolla's Histoire du Tango.

The concert will be at 2.30pm in the Waikanae Memorial Hall. Ticket enquiries: www.waikanaemusic.org.nz

Jenny Turnbull potter and ceramicist

Jenny Turnbull is part of a group of potters who are interested in reduction atmospheric firings of salt and soda, using different clays and glazes to achieve interesting surface effects, on porcelain and stoneware.

Each piece is individual, not repeatable, making them one-off pieces of ceramic art. Also available is gas fired porcelain domestic ware, framed lithography printed tiles and travel cups and gift boxed pottery - ideal for that very special gift.

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Council votes against Golden Mile

Wellington City Council decided not to implement the Golden Mile project on 18 June.

The 18 June City Strategy and Delivery Committee meeting voted 14-3 not to continue the Golden Mile project.

Instead it agreed a new approach to rejuvenating the inner-city.

The City Strategy and Delivery Committee decided to spend up to \$40 million on achievable inner-city improvements, including options for Courtney Place improvements and faster public transport through the central spine.

Councillors will select a preferred option this December, with delivery set to commence next year.

The committee also agreed to increase cleaning from monthly to weekly, and approved \$150,000 from the City Growth Fund to support the Te Aro Hā business

partnership to make visible improvements to buildings during the next 12 months.

"Our inner-city is our economic heart and home to many people," the Mayor Andrew Little says.

"We all want it to be a welcoming place where people can come together, enjoy a meal in the sunshine, make the most of our arts and culture scene, and feel safer.

"Today Council has drawn a line under a well-intentioned project that simply could not be delivered.

"We have an opportunity to do something that will make a difference, be creative and be affordable," the Mayor says.

Having agreed to the process, all councillors will now contribute to the development of a project brief to be approved in August.

This will set the guardrails for a detailed business case to be released in December.

Delivery will start in 2027.



An artist's impression of part of the Golden Mile.



Women's Refuge Awareness Month

July 2026



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Helping victims of domestic violence

Women's Refuge is the country's largest nationwide organisation that supports and helps women and children experiencing family violence through a network of 41 refuges across the whole country. It provides a 24 hour crisis line; a wide range of education programmes; advocates for policy change and conducts original research.

Women's Refuge advocates help across a wide spectrum, ranging from help accessing healthcare and counselling, support with MSD and budgeting advice, obtaining a protection order and legal assistance, finding a place to live, helping to fund activities for tamariki and establishing relationships with schools and teachers, even meeting basic needs like food,

clothing, and much more.

Its Whānau Protect service plays a key role in providing support and resources for family violence victims and their children to live free from violence while remaining in their homes. It provides an option for clients who do not want to, or cannot, leave their homes.

The Whānau Protect service plays a key role in providing support and resources for family violence victims and their children to live free from violence while remaining in their homes. It provides an option for clients who do not want to, or cannot, leave their home.

Whānau Protect is a service available in most locations around New Zealand to support victims of domestic violence who have

separated from their abuser.

It is designed to enable victims to remain living safely in their current homes with a reduced risk of family violence re-victimisation.



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Tax-free public transport arrives

Metlink has partnered with Extraordinary in making tax-free public transport available across the Wellington region, giving employees a new way to save on their daily commute.

Extraordinary is a payroll-based scheme that allows employees to pay for the bus, train or ferry using their pre-tax salary, saving around 30% every time they travel. Passengers can also tag on and off the bus or train using an Extraordinary card, just like a contactless bank card.

Greater Wellington Chair of the Public Transport Committee Ros Connelly says anything that makes travel more affordable is a good idea.

"Extraordinary creates another opportunity for people to save money using public transport," Cr Connelly says.

"We encourage employees to ask their workplace to enable Extraordinary Pay as a staff benefit.

"By using Extraordinary you save around 30% on travel, and we hope more people will choose the ease and practicality of public transport over the cost and hassle of finding a car park."

Extraordinary is the only Inland Revenue-approved pre-tax public transport

platform in New Zealand.

The pre-tax benefit is backed by a binding Inland Revenue ruling in 2025 (BR Prd 25/03) allowing employees to fund public transport from pre-tax income through salary sacrifice, saving upwards of \$900 every year.

Extraordinary Chief Executive Steven Zinsli says Extraordinary will make a real difference in people's day-to-day life.

"Nine hundred dollars that's a month of groceries, a few power bills, a school uniform," Stephen says.

"It's sitting there for your employees right now. Don't walk past it.

"Pre-tax public transport isn't a perk, it's a pay rise your employees didn't know they already had. It's largely cost-neutral for employers, there's no reason not to offer it."

Several Wellington-based organisations have already adopted Extraordinary, including Te Herenga Waka – Victoria University of Wellington, Kiwibank, Greater Wellington and Hutt City Council.

Employees can ask their employer to consider joining Extraordinary to make public transport more affordable and save on personal fuel costs.



An Extraordinary card that provides tax-free public transport. Photo: Supplied.

LETTERS to the editor

Golden Mile scrapped

One of the great pieces of news this week came when Wellington City Council decided to scrap the "Golden Mile Project".

This project had a budgeted cost of \$235 million, and with the likelihood of cost increases would probably have ended up costing the Wellington ratepayer even more money.

Ratepayers simply cannot afford the project, so it is great to see this legacy of former Mayor Tory Whanau getting put in the rubbish bin.

One aspect of the decision-making process is of concern, however.

Councillor Karl Tiefenbacher was effectively prevented from voting on the matter.

This happened because the Office of the Auditor-General recommended that Cr Tiefenbacher refrain from voting.

That is because Cr Tiefenbacher owns a small ice cream shop in Courtenay Place and as such has a financial interest in the Golden Mile project.

Now Cr Tiefenbacher campaigned against

the Golden Mile in the run up to last year's election.

The conflict of interest rules should only be used to stop councillors lining their own pockets, not to stop them delivering on their election promises.

If Cr Tiefenbacher was, in fact, "lining his own pockets" by voting against the Golden Mile, then that would simply show that the Golden Mile was a bad project that was bad for business and that it should be stopped.

My view is that the decision of the Office of the Auditor-General was poor. However in fairness to the Office of the Auditor-General I also consider that the current Local Authorities (Members' Interests) Act 1968 is poor and was a major contributor to what was a poor decision.

I don't believe that this Act should be used to stop elected councillors delivering on the mandate of their voters.

Doing this, in my view, runs against our democracy and how it should operate.

Khandallah ratepayer



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Northern Suburbs
Stroke Survivors

We meet 1st Wednesday monthly, 2pm, Zampelles Cafe, Johnsonville Mall. Also 2nd Tuesday, monthly, 10.30am, Huntleigh Home, 219-221 Karori Road, Karori.

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EV presentations, talk with experienced locals, soup and rolls. THIS SATURDAY 27 June, 11:30am, Ngaio Climate Crew, Ngaio Union Church tinyurl.com/ncc-ev-event

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Gathering confronts mental health discrimination

By Libbie Gillard

Wellingtonians with lived experiences of mental distress, health professionals, community workers and systems change leaders gathered for the conclusion of the Nōku te Ao Regional Wānanga nationwide series in Wellington at Te Wharewaka o Pōneke to move through the challenges of addressing mental health discrimination toward something practical.

One in five New Zealanders will experience mental distress this year.

This is a reminder that mental distress is a profoundly human experience, one that touches nearly every whānau in Aotearoa. And yet, for many, they can still face different levels of stigma and discrimination.

Nōku te Ao is a Health NZ nationwide social movement programme dedicated to creating a more inclusive Aotearoa for those with experience of mental distress.

Social Movement Programme Manager for Nōku te Ao, Astley Nathan, says that the atmosphere in the room was driven by a connection to do better for people with lived experiences of mental distress.

"It was incredible to have everyone connected under one roof," Astley says.

"For those working in the mental health support industry, they don't often get these chances to sit among those with lived experience, others in the industry, and to hear what is or isn't working for whānau."

The day's kōrero covered the full spectrum of that challenge and was the culmination of a series that had travelled the length of

Aotearoa before landing in Wellington.

Founder of Māori-led Take Notice Limited, Kerri Butler, spoke on keeping tāngata whaiora at the heart of service design, not at its edges.

From wellbeing organisation, Well.IAM, Paul Rangiwahia, shared accessible tools for building mental wellbeing into everyday life through small, sustainable actions. John Kingi and Heemi Kapa-Kingi of Soften Up Bro reframed vulnerability as a source of whānau strength rather than weakness.

Workshop facilitator Kylie Ryan examined how historical and cultural forces continue to shape who receives good care and who doesn't.

"We are incredibly grateful to have a great range of kōrero on the day," Astley says.

"For many whānau, stigma can show up anywhere so it's really important that we can openly share experiences in different areas of society and talk about where we can improve."

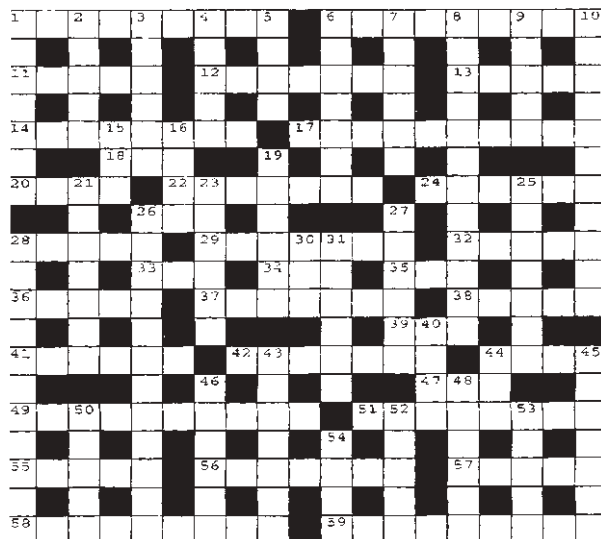
For Astley the conclusion of the wānanga series carries a message he wants people to hold onto.

"Regardless of programmes and initiatives, you and the people around you are the movement we are trying to create," he says.

"Even if the only thing you left with was a change in yourself and the way you engage with others, that is more than enough."

Need support? Free call or text 1737 any time to talk with a trained counsellor; Lifeline: 0800 543 354; or Samaritans: 0800 726 666.

CROSSWORD Puzzle



ACROSS

1. Failure to notice (9)
6. Astonished (9)
11. Type of warm water shark (5)
12. Speech (7)
13. Drillin tool; ... & Bit (5)
14. Washed (8)
17. Excited (10)
18. Exclamation of disgust (3)
20. Lie hidden (4)
22. Flightless bird (7)
24. Leisurely (Mus) (6)
26. Moist (3)
28. Class (5)
29. Deep-seated malice (7)
32. Profitable business; ... Concern (5)
33. Meadow (3)
34. Taxi (3)
35. Pair of performers (3)
36. Pirouette (5)
37. Inactivity (7)
38. Group of eight (5)
39. Vex (3)
41. Doze (6)
42. Provisions (7)
44. Chew steadily (4)
47. Covered vehicle (3)
49. Makes worse (10)
51. Seized (8)

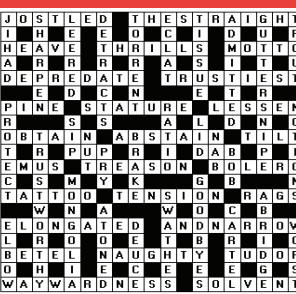
55. Chaos (inf) (5)
56. Showy display of boldness (7)
57. Boredom (5)
58. Home (9)
59. Lasting the entire evening (5-4)

DOWN

1. Of sight (7)
2. Golf, two strokes under par (5)
3. Fortress, ...hold (6)
4. Elegance (5)
5. Neat (4)
6. Agnostic (7)
7. Expect (6)
8. Prententious language (12)
9. Answer (5)
10. Large battleship (11)
15. Seabird (3)
16. Small budget; ...-string (4)
19. Sovereign (6)
21. Pragmatic person (7)
23. Austere, ...-laced (6)
25. Shimmer (7)
26. Sensible (4-8)
27. Confer holy orders upon (6)
28. Uninvited guest (4-7)
30. Vehicle (3)
31. Get (6)
40. Please reply (Fr) (abbr) (4)

43. Medium (7)
44. Type of antelope (3)
45. Nuptial ceremony (7)
46. Duplicating material, ... paper (6)
48. Bear witness to (6)
50. Donates (5)
52. Between (5)
53. Music piece with recurring theme (5)
54. Rapid tour (political campaign) (... story) (4)

Solution
Last Week: 18 June 2026



Johnsonville loses close encounter

By Frank Neill

The Johnsonville Hawks and Wainuiomata each scored three tries in their 20 June Swindale Shield Rugby encounter played at Helston Park.

However Johnsonville failed with all its kicks, while Wainuiomata slotted two conversions and a penalty to win the closely contested match 21-15.

Two of the Hawks tries were scored by

forwards, with both prop Hayden Kuresa and loose forward Regan Herbert dotting down.

Midfield back Connor Fitzsimons scored the other try.

The match marked a milestone for outside back Kini Bryce, when he came off the bench and ran onto the field for his premier debut.

Johnsonville's next match is against Marist St Pat's at Helston Park on 27 June with a 2:45pm kick off.

Students making a big difference

Tawa College students have once again demonstrated their commitment to making a difference through a series of creative fundraising initiatives in support of the World Vision 40 Hour Challenge.

A highlight of the school's fundraising efforts was the annual Survivor Challenge, a student-led event that has become a much-loved tradition since it first launched in 2008.

Organised and run by Year 12 and 13 students earlier this month, the 24-hour challenge saw between 80 and 120 Year 9 to 11 students compete in an elimination-style competition inspired by the popular television series.

Participants paid an entry fee to take part with all proceeds going towards the World Vision 40 Hour Challenge.

Students were divided into four tribes and faced a range of physical, mental and team-based challenges throughout the event.

Student competitors also raised funds by purchasing optional "lifelines" throughout the challenge.

On the evening of the challenge, the final 20 competitors stayed overnight at Tawa College before continuing through a series of challenges the following day.

The competition culminated in a lunch-time final, where the top three students competed for a share of a prize pool worth approximately \$750, made possible through the generous support of local, regional and

national business sponsors.

The event raised \$3,000, with donations still coming in.

Tawa College also recently hosted their third annual Charity Junior Semi-Formal Dance on 12 June.

The popular event brought students together for an evening of music, dancing and entertainment, with \$15 from every ticket sold donated directly to the World Vision 40 Hour Challenge, raising an additional \$1,500.

Following the success of the Survivor Challenge and Charity Junior Semi-Formal, Tawa College students geared up for one final fundraising push ahead of the World Vision 40 Hour Challenge weekend (19 to 21 June).

Mr Whippy visited the school to help generate excitement, raise awareness and encourage even more students to take part in this year's challenge.

The fundraising activities reflect Tawa College's strong culture of service and student leadership, with senior students taking responsibility for planning and delivering events that engage the wider school community while supporting vulnerable children and families around the world.

Head Teacher Eric Clarke, who led the organisation of the challenges says: "Through innovation, teamwork and a passion for helping others, our students continue to show the positive impact young people can have when they come together for a common cause."

Startup helping community groups

A Tawa software startup is helping community events move into the digital age, with locally developed platform StallHub receiving almost 100 stallholder applications on its first day of launch.

StallHub launched its latest event application system alongside applications opening for Mexted Motors Spring into Tawa, one of Wellington's much-loved community festivals.

The strong first-day response highlights the demand from stallholders and event organisers for simpler, more efficient ways to manage community events.

For many markets, fairs and festivals, managing stallholder applications remains a manual process involving spreadsheets, emails, online forms and payment tracking.

StallHub was created to help organisers streamline these tasks while providing stallholders with a clearer and more professional application experience.

"Community events are often powered by volunteers who dedicate hundreds of hours behind the scenes to make them happen," says StallHub founder Brigitte Anderson.

"A large part of that workload comes from administration – processing applications, following up information, issuing invoices, managing payments and communicating with stallholders. We built StallHub to

make that process easier."

The platform allows event organisers to create customised stallholder application forms; collect and manage applications online; review, approve and communicate with stallholders; manage payments and event requirements; and organise stall information and event logistics in one place.

For stallholders, StallHub provides a central place to discover events, submit applications, provide required information and keep track of their participation.

The launch with Mexted Motors Spring into Tawa marks an important milestone for the New Zealand startup as it expands its focus on supporting community-led events throughout the country.

"Markets and fairs bring communities together, support local businesses and create opportunities for thousands of small vendors," Brigitte says.

"Our goal is to give organisers the tools they need so they can spend less time managing paperwork and more time creating great events."

With early adoption from stallholders immediately following launch, StallHub is continuing development of additional features designed to support event organisers, including improved event co-ordination, volunteer management and sponsor engagement tools.

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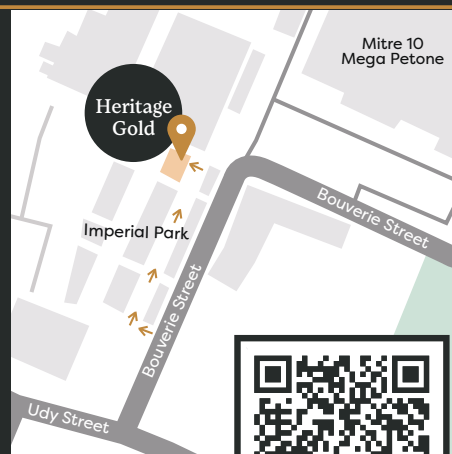
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