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# Major concern



By Frank Neill

Huge concern about the “massive water bills” people will receive with the implementation of Tiaki Wai was expressed at a public meeting in Wadestown on 7 July.

Another major concern expressed was the poor quality of the consultation on the establishment of Tiaki Wai.

*Continued on page 2.*

Guy Nunns (left) and Jeremy Verity, who presented on Tiaki Wai at a meeting in Wadestown on 7 July.  
 Photo: Frank Neill.



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## How to reach us

Independent  
**Herald**

Phone (04) 587 1660

www.independentherald.co.nz

**REPORTER**

**Frank Neill**

herald@wsn.co.nz

027 490 3916

**NATIONAL SALES**

**Les Whiteside**

les@wsn.co.nz

021 360 008

**SALES**

**Steve Maggs**

steve@wsn.co.nz

027 765 8303

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# Outrageous tripling of costs

Continued from page 1.

Guy Nunns and Jeremy Verity, who have launched a "Stop Tiaki Wai" initiative, presented at the meeting, held in St Luke's Church. Guy has a three bedroom house in Karori, and the rates currently are \$6,000 a year, he told the meeting.

"In three years I believe it will have doubled. "In 10 years it might be getting close to tripling. It will be at least two and a half times what it is now.

"That's Tiaki Wai's figures. That's not mine," he said.

"I have no problem with an amalgamated water body, if the water [charge] is apportioned and spent on what it is supposed to be spent on and is a reasonable amount.

"But not tripled. That is absolutely outrageous," Guy said.

Jeremy said he owned a property in Wadestown, valued at \$900,000.

The rates were currently \$2,000 a year.

"By 2036 if you own a house worth that much you will be paying \$5,300 for your water."

For a house with the average Wadestown valuation of \$1,100,000, the rates would increase from \$2,400 currently to \$7,300 in 10 years, Jeremy said.

"Those numbers come off the Tiaki Wai website."

Both Guy and Jeremy also spoke about the consultation Wellington City Council conducted in the lead up to the formation of Tiaki Wai.

"The consultation has been deficient," Guy said.

When he was at a meeting last year while campaigning for a seat on the Council, nobody he talked to had heard about the consultation.

At one meeting he asked for a show of hands of people who had heard about the consultation, and only about 2-3% of people indicated they



Guy Nunns during his presentation on Tiaki Wai. Photo: Frank Neill.

had heard about it.

Because the consultation was not widely communicated "there's no way in the world that we were meaningfully and properly consulted," Guy said.

"The Council did a really bad job of promoting this consultation," Jeremy said. The media had also done a bad job of informing people about the consultation, he added.

Tiaki Wai was currently spending \$420,000 promoting itself as the new water entity.

"That money should have been spent 18 months ago promoting the consultation," Jeremy said.

Four motions received a unanimous "yes" vote at the meeting.

The meeting supported a 2% cap on the increase in water services cost.

It also supported a 2% rates cap.

There was unanimous support for Tiaki Wai leadership to be democratically elected.

The meeting also supported water services going back into public ownership.

A new incorporated society, which has as its first project "Stop Tiaki Wai", has just been established, Guy told the meeting.

The name of the society is Wellington Region Residents Association.

"Going forward we are going to have a petition that will be out soon.

"We have got a website out any day now. And please follow us on Facebook.

"Get involved and raise your voices.

"What actions can you take?"

"You can write to your Councillor.

"You can write to the Mayor.

"You can write to your MP.

"You can write outside your jurisdiction because now you are part of a water body that includes three other jurisdictions.

"You can write to the Minister of Local Government Simon Watts," Guy said.

## Local violin player a Young Soloist

An Pham, an 11-year-old violinist has been selected as one of the Christchurch Symphony Orchestra's Young Soloists for 2026.

A student at Samuel Marsden Collegiate School in Karori, An began learning violin and piano in 2020 with Lynley Culliford and Rachel Thomson.

Since then, she has achieved success in a range of competitions, including winning the Radda Rise International String Competition 2024 and receiving the Most Promising Player award in the under 25 category at the New Zealand National Concerto Competition 2025.

This year she was also awarded Best Overall Winner with the Catalan Collective at the Wellington District Chamber Music Contest.

Last year, An made her orchestral debut



An Pham with her violin. Photo: Supplied.

with the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra, becoming their youngest soloist to perform with the ensemble.

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**Brenda** 021 640 152 E: [brenda@wsn.co.nz](mailto:brenda@wsn.co.nz)

**Les Whiteside** 021 360 008 E: [les@wsn.co.nz](mailto:les@wsn.co.nz)

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## Space Place celebrating Matariki

Space Place in Kelburn is celebrating Matariki with a whānau event this Sunday, 12 July.

The celebration will run from 10am to 2pm.

The event will include kapa haka, live Matariki star talks, crafts and story telling.

"This is a time for us to remember and honour our loved ones who have passed, reflect and express gratitude for what we have, and look forward to the year ahead," Space Place says.

Space Place will also be open on the Matariki holiday on Friday 10 July.



# Honoured for contributions to Chinese language

Samuel Marsden Collegiate School's Chinese teacher Zoe Ren and Year 12 student Isabella Gollan were honoured at the opening ceremony for Chinese Language Week at Parliament on 30 June.

Ms Ren was a recipient of the 2026 New Zealand Chinese Language Week Chinese Teacher Award, recognising exceptional educators who inspire their students every day and play a vital role in growing Chinese language learning across New Zealand.

Isabella was selected as a 2026 New Zealand Chinese Language Week Youth Ambassador.

"Receiving this award means a great deal to me," Ms Ren says.

"It is a meaningful recognition of the journey I have taken over the past 13 years as a teacher of Chinese as a foreign language, and of the perseverance and passion I have brought to my work every step of the way.

"This year is especially significant, as it also marks my 10th year in New Zealand as an immigrant.

"Receiving this award at this milestone is both humbling and deeply encouraging.

"It reminds me that the effort I have invested in promoting the Chinese language and building cultural understanding has been seen and valued.

"It also inspires me to continue sharing my language and culture with future generations."

Mrs Ren's recognition continues a tradition of excellence within Marsden's Chinese programme, which was established in 2007 and has flourished through its partnership with the Confucius Institute since 2016.

Over the past decade, the Confucius Classroom has expanded opportunities for students through enriched learning experiences, cultural exchange and national and international competitions.

"Studying Chinese is hard, but it has been really rewarding as I have begun to understand more and more," Isabella says.

"I enjoy being able to use Chinese with my friends, and it's exciting when I realise I understand something that I didn't before."

Learning Chinese has already opened



Chinese Language Week Teacher's Award Winner Zoe Ren. Photo: Supplied.

exciting opportunities, including competing in the Chinese Bridge Speech Competition and preparing to travel to Shanghai with Marsden in 2027, where she will immerse herself in the language and culture while further developing her conversational skills.

As a Youth Ambassador, Isabella hopes to inspire more young New Zealanders to learn Chinese.

"I think understanding another language is



NZ Chinese Language Week Youth Ambassador 2026 Isabella Gollan. Photo: Supplied.

one of the best ways to understand another culture and the way people think," she says. "Around 1.4 billion people speak variations of Chinese around the world, so learning the language opens up opportunities to connect with so many more people."

Her advice to prospective learners is simple: "Be brave. Don't wait until you're 'good enough'. The best time to use a language is now."

## Three local NZCT grants

By Frank Neill

Three organisations that operate in the 'Independent Herald' circulation area were recipients of grants in the latest round of the New Zealand Community Trust's disbursements.

The Johnsonville Tennis Club was granted \$1,720 for equipment.

Karori West Normal School was granted

\$25,000 for solar panels and battery storage units.

Victoria University of Wellington Snow Sports Club was granted \$1,017 for snow chains.

The trust disbursed \$1,075,126.40 in the latest round of funding, announced on 1 July.

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

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## Greg O'Connor MP for Ōhāriu

Spokesperson for Courts and Veterans' Affairs  
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### Get in touch

My office is open 9am - 4pm  
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04 478 3332

[greg.oconnor@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:greg.oconnor@parliament.govt.nz)

2/18 Moorefield Road, Johnsonville, Wellington

[Labour.org.nz/gregocconnor](http://Labour.org.nz/gregocconnor)

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Authorised by Greg O'Connor MP,  
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**inbrief news**

**Glenside AGM**

The Safe Haven for Birds in Glenside Reserve recommendations will be presented at the Glenside Progressive Association Annual General Meeting this coming Monday, 13 July.

Wildlife Management International Ltd (WMIL) were funded with a Johnsonville Charitable Trust grant to develop the bird restoration strategy through a series of workshops and meetings held earlier this year.

The guest speaker at the AGM is Elizabeth (Biz) Bell of WMIL.

She will present the Safe Haven for Birds in Glenside report and recommendations.

The AGM will be held online at 7:30pm.

The Glenside Progressive Association President Claire Bibby says all are welcome. "Please contact info@glenside.org.nz or 022 186 5714 for the meeting link."

# Local actor joins KAT Theatre

By Mary Collie-Holmes

Gino Moretto has lived in Ngaio for just over 20 years, but it's only now that he's started acting with local theatre group KAT Theatre.

He has already had a part in their short plays season and now he's rehearsing 'Accidental Death of an Anarchist' which opens on 16 July.

"I loved the stage when I was young, which is why I became a drama teacher," he says.

"But working while parenting young children doesn't leave time for much else, and so it's only now, when my kids are in their teens, that I've felt I could start doing my own thing again.

"My wife challenged me to get involved a couple of years ago, but it took the pull of a short play to get me started.

"I thought, that won't demand too much time. I could manage that."

So Gino successfully auditioned for 'Alan Grimaldi and the 183', one of the short plays which were staged at the club's home base, Cochran Hall in Khandallah, in April and then moved on to a short season at Bob Scott Retirement Village where some ex-members of KAT now live.

"Then I got the part of Detective Dan Daisy in 'Accidental Death of an Anarchist' and we'd already started rehearsing when we did the Bob Scott season," Gino says.

"That was a busy weekend, but I managed to squeeze it all in. And I'm very much enjoying this play. The sharp, dark humour makes it exactly my kind of story."

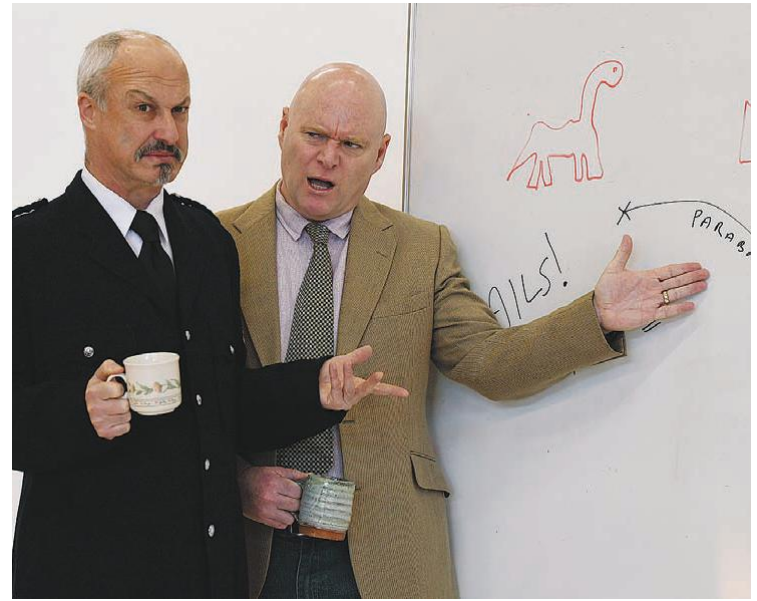
'Accidental Death of an Anarchist' is a very funny – and very physical – satire about power, corruption and institutional cover-ups.

It was written by Italians Dario Fo and Franca Rame in response to a real-life event in 1969 when a railway worker, falsely accused of anarchism, "fell" from a fourth floor window at police HQ in Milan.

It's been translated, adapted and performed in over 40 countries.

The version KAT is staging is by Londoner Tom Basden and is set in a present-day police station.

Co-director Paul Kay says the play is no less relevant today than when it was written



Superintendent Curry, played by Chris O'Grady, and Detective Daisy, played by Gino Moretto, are mystified by the strange diagrams on the police station whiteboard in KAT Theatre's production of 'Accidental Death of an Anarchist'. Photo: Brian Scurfield.

in 1970.

"What happened after the railway worker died was a classic case of institutional cover-up – which I know Wellington audiences will really relate to," says Paul.

"And they'll very much enjoy the slapstick comedy for which Fo and Rame are renowned."

Paul and his partner and co-director Joy Hellyer have recently moved to Ngaio and he says they are greatly enjoying the short trip to Cochran Hall from their new home.

"Our primary affiliation is with Stagecraft, which is based in the city, but we do enjoy working with the team at KAT.

"This is the third play we've co-directed with them and it's such a bonus not having to drive from where we used to live, on the other side of town."

Dario Fo was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for Literature in 1997.

He and his wife Franca Rame co-wrote some of the most frequently performed satirical plays of modern theatre.

The Italians are this year celebrating the centenary of Fo's birth through various festivals plus a commemorative postage stamp.

Paul says 'Accidental Death of an Anarchist' is one of his top five plays.

"I first saw it when I was quite young and it really spoke to me.

"Plus I've always had a special interest in things Italian because some of my forebears came from there. Fo grew up 15 miles from where they lived."

To see for yourself why this comedy is an enduring classic, as relevant today as it was 50 years ago, and a favourite with so many, book tickets through kat-theatre.org.nz.

The season runs from 16 to 25 July, Thursday to Saturday, with a matinee on the Sunday of the first weekend.

**NEWS TIPS**

Send your tips to [herald@wsn.co.nz](mailto:herald@wsn.co.nz)

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The Kiri Te Kanawa Song Quest finalists with head judge Frederica von Stade. Photo: Hagen Hopkins.

# Song Quest final on Saturday

Six outstanding young singers will compete in the final of the 2026 Kiri Te Kanawa Song Quest this Saturday, 11 July.

The final will be held in the Michael Fowler Centre.

The six finalists were announced on 5 July. They were selected by internationally acclaimed American mezzo-soprano Frederica von Stade, following two captivating semi-final concerts on Saturday 4 and Sunday 5 July at St Andrew's on The Terrace.

The finalists are Cecily Shaw – (32, mezzo-soprano), Faamanu Fonoti-Fuimaono – (26, baritone), Jordan Fonoti-Fuimaono – (25, tenor), Samuel Downes – (29, tenor), Samuel Mataele – (19, countertenor) and Sarah Mileham – (23, soprano).

Frederica von Stade, affectionally known as 'Flicka,' has been highly impressed with the vocal quality and skills of the finalists.

"Choosing a top six from such an excep-

tional group of semi-finalists has been a real challenge.

"The standard this year has been incredibly high, with each singer showing strong vocal control, artistry, and individuality.

"This year's semi-finalists also cover a wide range of voice types, which highlights the depth of operatic talent in Aotearoa.

"What stands out at this level isn't just vocal ability, but the way performers can command the stage and connect with an audience straight away," Frederica says.

In its 70-year history, the Song Quest has launched the careers of some of New Zealand's most celebrated singers, including Dame Kiri Te Kanawa, Dame Malvina Major, Phillip Rhodes, Jonathan Lemalu, Sol3 Mio's Amitai Pati and Filipe Manu.

People can find out more about the 2026 Kiri Te Kanawa Song Quest-finalists at [www.songquest.nz](http://www.songquest.nz) and tickets can be booked there.

# Extra trains for All Blacks v Italy

Extra trains are scheduled for the All Blacks' clash with Italy at Hnry Stadium on Saturday 11 July.

To help fans get to the stadium in time for the 5:10pm kick-off, trains will have extra carriages on the Johnsonville line.

Standard weekend timetables apply before the game, and passengers are encouraged to travel early.

After the game, additional trains are scheduled to leave Wellington Station on the Johnsonville line to help fans get home.

Buses will run to their normal Saturday timetables after the game, with larger double deckers replacing some standard sized buses.

Match tickets can be used to travel on Metlink bus and train services at no extra cost on Saturday 11 July.

Simply show your event ticket to the driver or onboard staff. This does not apply to harbour ferries, Airport Express buses, or

Te Hunga Whaikaha Total Mobility taxis.

Passengers are advised to expect busy services, to allow extra time for travel and to check the Metlink app or website for the latest travel information.

All rail lines will be open on Friday 10 July, and Saturday 11 July during the Matariki long weekend. Only on Sunday 12 July will some rail lines close and partially close, so KiwiRail can progress important upgrades. The work will help to improve passenger rail reliability.

It will also prepare the Wellington network for the arrival of Tūhono trains, and higher-capacity services for commuters and event goers from 2030.

On the evening of Sunday 12 July, buses replace trains on the Johnsonville Line.

Off-peak fares apply across the long weekend, including on the Matariki public holiday on Friday 10 July, when Metlink services follow Sunday timetables.

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Putting some fun into a past Daffodil Day with a jar of jelly beans. Photo: Supplied.

## Daffodil Day needs volunteers

The Cancer Society is looking for people to help turn Wellington's northern and western suburbs yellow.

It is looking for people to help with Daffodil Day, which returns on Friday 28 August.

"It's our biggest fundraising day of the year, and we need your help to make it count," the Cancer Society says.

"Every dollar raised in greater Wellington stays right here in our region to support those in our community affected by cancer.

"Throughout August you can donate, fund-raise, volunteer or grab a bunch of daffodils to support the one in three New Zealanders who will be affected by cancer during their lifetime."

There are a number of ways people can help.

These include joining the Wellington CBD street appeal on Thursday 27 August, collecting on Daffodil Day, or stepping up in the suburbs on Saturday 29 August.

"There's a shift for everyone this year and it can't happen without amazing community

heroes like you," the Cancer Society says.

"Choose a time and location that suits you, grab your friends, bring your whānau, rally your workmates or come solo.

"Every hour makes a difference."

People can volunteer for Daffodil Day by visiting [www.daffodilday.org.nz/volunteer\\_opening\\_soon](http://www.daffodilday.org.nz/volunteer_opening_soon).

Those wanting to help can also choose to fundraise their own way.

"You don't need to wait until Daffodil Day to make a difference," the Cancer Society says.

"Get involved anytime during August by fundraising at school, work, home or within your community throughout the month.

"There are so many fun ways to raise vital funds – host a morning tea, organise a Yellow Day or even become a Daffy Dipper ([daffy-dip.org.nz](http://daffy-dip.org.nz)).

"Get your fundraising off to a flying start. Register [at [www.daffodilday.org.nz/fundraise](http://www.daffodilday.org.nz/fundraise)] by 24 July for your free resources."

## Capital celebrating Matariki



The Matariki fire on the waterfront. Photo: Billie Win.

Wellington will celebrate Matariki, the Māori New Year, with Matariki Ahi Kā, happening along the Wellington Waterfront from 9 to 12 July.

Everyone is invited to celebrate in this free, whānau-friendly event featuring fire, projections, performances, and kai from 6PM-9PM each evening.

The rising of Puanga and Matariki is a time to gather together, reflect on loved ones who have passed, celebrate whanaungatanga (kinship), share stories and kai, and make plans for the future.

Mayor Andrew Little says Matariki Ahi Kā is an opportunity to reflect on our connections to our ancestors and communities, and to acknowledge our loved ones who have departed.

"Wellington City Council is proud to support this uniquely Aotearoa way to recognise knowledge and culture passed

through generations, that helps guide the partnerships between mana whenua and all peoples of this country," he adds.

This immersive, self-guided event takes visitors through tomokanga (entrances) to past, present and future event zones.

People can gather around the fire pits in each zone to enjoy storytelling, pause and dream at our discussion spaces, and discover connections through whakapapa.

Everyone is welcome to honour those who have passed away, and express hopes for the future, with a special ceremony at 7.45pm each night, and experience a projection on the Te Papa wall commemorating loved ones who have died in the last year.

Live music and kapa haka will be performed on the Aroha and Takoha stages.

The full programme can be found at [wellington.govt.nz/matariki](http://wellington.govt.nz/matariki).

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# EDUCATION 2026



## English Teaching College

What makes Onslow College special - it is the students, it is the staff, it is the community.

Onslow College prides itself on providing an exceptional educational environment, where every student is empowered to achieve their full potential and grow into confident, and valued members of Aotearoa. Since 2022, we have been in the top 5 state co-ed secondary schools across all of New Zealand for university entrance attainment, including being the number 1 school in 2024. In 2025, Onslow College had the second highest

rate of Merit and Excellence Endorsements across all Wellington State and State Integrated Schools. Over 60% of this cohort achieved these outstanding academic results. "Onslow College is a school where you can be yourself in an environment that will challenge and care for you in equal measure." - Jono Wyeth, Tumukaki/ Principal  
**We welcome enquiries:**  
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English Teaching College has been delivering quality English Language, literacy, numeracy and digital skills to domestic and international students for over 30 years.

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Lower Hutt campus is a smaller, community focussed, school with small classes which mean that all students get the teacher's attention when they need it. The campus facilities include eight classrooms with the latest multimedia facilities, a computer lab and a student kitchen. Free Wi-Fi is available for students at any time during school hours.

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ETC Lower Hutt is centrally located in the central shopping area next to the Queensgate Shopping Mall. A regular train service allows for easy access to the Wellington CBD within 30 minutes.

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# EDUCATION 2026

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# What's cool in the Wairarapa

Mulled Wine Concerts in Featherston

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Ticket outlets: (please note: CASH ONLY) : Dickensian Bookshop, Featherston: Mrs Blackwell's Village Bookshop, Greytown: iSITE, Martinborough.

## Top European concert pianist in Featherston

Wairarapa classical music enthusiasts have been giving a warm reception to the Mulled Wine Concert series presented by Mary Gow.

The series has so far covered concerts ranging from formal piano recitals through harp and flute duos to a full-on big-band jazz session. With valued support from local arts organisations and hopeful of support from commercial sponsors, Gow – a concert pianist herself – is intent on building upon her success to present a further series of concerts in the Wairarapa during 2026.

The highly regarded German pianist Michael Endres will return again to give a piano recital for Mulled Wine Concert in Featherston's Anzac Hall on Saturday 25 July at 4:00pm. International critics



have described Endres as “one of the most interesting pianists recording today”. He has released 35 CDs during his career and his extensive prizewinning discography includes the prestigious Diapason d’Or (France) which he was recently awarded for the third time and the Choc du Musique which he has won twice. He has appeared at major festivals and concert-halls all over the world. A prominent academic musician, Endres had a distinguished teaching career in Germany, Norway and New Zealand before he decided to concentrate on performance and recording.

His reviews from music publications have been outstanding: Diapason magazine said of his 2018 release “An acoustic which allows the piano to resonate with a fullness, a brilliance without hardness, and a breadth of

sonority which is ideal for Schubert, these works chosen by Michael Endres flow endlessly between jubilation and drama.”

His Featherston programme will include the Mozart Sonata K281, Schubert's Impromptus, Op. 90 and Liszt's Sonata in B minor.

Mulled Wine Concerts organiser Mary Gow says, “We are very excited to be continuing our presentation of new Wairarapa concerts this year. As before, our objective is to present the best music while keeping admission prices at an affordable level. The wonderful ANZAC Hall in Featherston has excellent acoustics and a splendid piano. What a pleasure it will be to hear exquisite music in such a pleasant setting!”

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## Pour and Explore wine and food festival

Pour & Explore Martinborough brings winter to life this August. A month filled with over 70 events celebrating wine, food, arts, and music, along with accommodation and retail offers, lets you explore everything that makes Martinborough special.

Martinborough has long been known for its pinot noir and long lunches. However, this August, the village invites you to savour the sights, flavours, and experiences of winter in the area instead of hunkering down.

While the 2025 edition had 40 events, this year offers over 70 experiences spanning food, wine, art, creativity, outdoor adventures, and live music, all hosted by some of the region's finest producers, venues, and makers.

The culinary calendar is filled with cooking schools, olive oil blending, cocktail masterclasses, and a very special French-inspired evening – Le Soirée – masterminded by the team who bring you



the annual Meandering Lunch. For those looking to explore further afield, the Tora Coastal Walk: A Hiker at Our Table pairs a day on one of the region's most dramatic coastal tracks with a long lunch overlooking the sea on 23 August.



# WAIRARAPA EVENTS CENTRE IS TE HUINGA TĀNGATA

The ingoa, a koha from our Mana Whenua, Hurunui-o-rangi, represents the role of our venue as a place where peoples from across the Wairarapa can meet to celebrate, entertain and discuss in a safe space for all.

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Te Huinga  
Tāngata

WAIRARAPA EVENTS CENTRE



Onslow College Polar Plunge bake sale goodies. Photo: Supplied.

## Onslow College bakes for Special Olympics

Onslow College is among the groups and communities across Aotearoa New Zealand that are getting behind this year's Law Enforcement Torch Run Polar Plunge.

The Polar Plunge helps create sporting opportunities for people with intellectual disabilities through Special Olympics New Zealand.

At Onslow College, students chose to support the campaign with a bake sale, raising \$300 for the Polar Plunge.

Deputy Principal Julia Woods co-ordinated the fundraiser alongside Student Leaders and Learning Support students, who baked cookies and cupcakes, ran the stall, and helped bring the fundraiser to life.

It was a thoughtful way to support a cause that resonates with the school's values of inclusion, belonging and contributing to their community.

"Bake sales have always been really well supported at Onslow, so it felt like the perfect way to bring people together while supporting the Polar Plunge," Julia says.

Learning Support Leader Kirsty Holden says the school values its connection with Special Olympics New Zealand.

"We've welcomed Special Olympics New Zealand into the school to work with our Learning Support students, and we keep in touch with what's on offer.

"We also share information with families about activities and events outside school, helping students continue participating in sport if they choose to," Kirsty says.

Special Olympics New Zealand Regional Sports Co-ordinator Ben Wallace says schools can play an important role in helping

students and families discover what Special Olympics has to offer.

"Support like this not only helps raise funds but also introduces more students and families to the opportunities available through Special Olympics and the chance to get involved."

The bake sale was well supported by students and staff, with Principal Jonathan Wyeth stopping by to buy some baking.

Special Olympics New Zealand mascot Kaha the Kiwi also made a surprise visit, meeting students and staff, posing for photos and helping create plenty of excitement throughout the lunchtime break.

Some of the baking even made its way back to the Special Olympics New Zealand head office in Seaview, where Chief Executive Fran Scholey was delighted to see the effort that had gone into the treats.

"We're incredibly grateful to everyone at Onslow College for getting behind Polar Plunge," Fran says.

"It's fantastic to see students finding their own way to support the campaign.

"We'd also like to thank the students, staff and wider school community for their generosity and enthusiasm."

The Law Enforcement Torch Run Polar Plunge is a nationwide fundraising event supporting Special Olympics New Zealand.

Participants brave the cold water to raise funds that help create sporting opportunities for people with intellectual disabilities across Aotearoa New Zealand.

Special Olympics New Zealand is encouraging schools, workplaces, sports teams and communities to take the plunge, show their



Onslow College's Tumauki/Principal with Kaha the Kiwi at the bake sale. Photo: Supplied.

support and spread the word.

Polar Plunge events will take place in Wellington on 18 July, and in Auckland and Christchurch on 25 July.

The plunge lasts a moment. The impact lasts a lifetime.

To register, donate or find out more, visit <https://letr-polar-plunge.raiselysite.com>.

## Support for families of substance abusers

Support services for people affected by substance abuse by a loved one was brought to Wellington on Monday 6 July.

Brave Hearts NZ (Manawa Kaha Aotearoa), a registered charity supporting families and whānau of loved ones with substance use issues, brought its support services to Wellington with an inaugural hui, held in Upper Hutt.

The event marked the beginning of much-needed support, with monthly support meetings to follow this first event.

"Brave Hearts exists to provide support, education services and tools to help families and whānau find stability and wellbeing in their own lives," its Founder Director Erin O'Neill says.

"The impact on families and whānau caring for a loved one with substance use issues can be catastrophic and the impacts are widespread into the community."

The Wellington launch comes as substance use harm continues to impact communities across New Zealand.

New Zealand Police wastewater testing for the first quarter of 2025 estimated methamphetamine consumption at 33 kilograms per

week nationally, with an estimated weekly social harm cost of \$34.6 million.

"While there is support available for people experiencing addiction, families and whānau are often left to navigate the impact alone," Erin says.

"What made the biggest difference for me was finding people who simply understood," says Jane Knight, the joint facilitator of the Wellington hui.

That was not "people who judged, offered solutions, or told me what I should do, just people who listened and truly 'got it'."

"Sharing the burden with others who had walked a similar path helped me survive some of the darkest days. That led me to Brave Hearts.

"I have used the helpline, attended the online education zooms and read with sadness, humility, awe and hope the many online stories.

"What was missing was a place in Wellington where people could gather together, be seen and have their pain 'held' in a safe space."

For more information phone 0508 272 834 or visit [www.bravehearts.nz](http://www.bravehearts.nz).

## Libraries holiday programme under way

Wellington City Libraries school holidays programme is under way with activities for tamariki, rangatahi and their whānau.

"Discover the wonders of Matariki and Puanga while learning about tikanga," Wellington City Libraries says.

"Plant a seed for Puanga, cosy up for stories and waiata, unleash your creativity with whetū-inspired art, or discover the meanings of the different Matariki whetū while creating with LEGO®.

"As well as events celebrating Matariki and Puanga there are a few other

things going on in our libraries over the holidays.

"We have some ongoing activities set up so even if you're just dropping in for a visit there will be something to do, and we've also got some exciting events with some very special guests.

"Visit the event calendar to see the full schedule of events over the holidays and join us to create wonderful memories with your friends and whānau."

The libraries' school holiday programme is at [www.wcl.govt.nz/kidsholidays/](http://www.wcl.govt.nz/kidsholidays/).



### NEWS TIPS

Send your tips to [herald@wsn.co.nz](mailto:herald@wsn.co.nz)

# Casino Royale coming to Linden

Porirua City Brass is presenting Casino Royale – a high-energy cabaret packed with cheeky charm, sparkling music and more than a few surprises.

The show will begin tonight, 9 July and run to 11 July at the Linden Community Centre, starting at 7:30pm.

The band and Wellington's local theatre talent are collaborating to perform the show.

Taking centre stage alongside the band is actor Mike Bryant (last seen in Once upon a time in Homowood and Farrago Bazaar) and a multitude of local singers and dancers, under the creative direction of Letitia Garrett, known best for acting and directing with the Wellington Footlights.

"We have such a great cast of awesome performers who know how to put on a show and absolutely love it," Letitia says.

The story follows Jack Potts (Mike Bryant), the owner of a once thriving casino, now fighting survival following the pandemic and a

myriad of other misfortunes and bad decisions.

Watch him and the talented cast reminisce about the once glamorous casino lifestyle through music from the 1920s to the present day.

Letitia says it's always a delight to collaborate with the band's musical director – who is also her husband, Nick Garrett.

This show is just one gamble Porirua City Brass will be taking over the next 12 months. For the first time since 1975, the band is traveling overseas next year, to compete in the Australian National Brass Band Championships.

This cabaret is one of many fundraising projects to help the band reach the international stage.

"It's not often that we combine with local theatre," the band's Chair Edrick Child says.

"These actors will bring vibrancy, stage presence and pizzazz, making it unlike any other show we've done before."



Porirua City Brass. Photo: Supplied.



Johnsonville Lions Incoming President Stephen Mills (left) receiving the club gong and gavel from outgoing President Phillip Henty. Photo: Supplied.

## New J'ville Lions Club President

Stephen Mills was welcomed as the Johnsonville Lion Club President for 2026-26 at a ceremony on 31 July.

Stephen has been an enthusiastic member of the club for just on 18 months and is looking forward to the challenge of leading the club for the next 12 months.

He is the 58th President of Johnsonville Lions since it chartered as a new Club in March 1969.

Outgoing President Phillip Henty thanked members for their support during a successful year by highlighting the community and club support offered by members.

Some of these achievements included ongoing fundraising for various community needs, a young maker contest, local inter-college debate, tree planting, fashion parades and a recent successful quiz evening.

Phillip also highlighted assistance that Johnsonville Lions had given to local community groups such as Altrusa International and the Girl Guides Association.

Incoming President Stephen outlined to members and guests that he has recently been making many community connections about how Johnsonville Lions can further assist local communities.

His theme is for community growth and changes to grow the Club. He encouraged members to embrace change and think differently for activities.

"While we continue our existing involvement with our local communities," he said,

"we need to consider how our Club can better support those communities."

President Phillip has set a Club goal to increase membership by 10 over his year.

"Strengthening our ties with local colleges and businesses will help in this goal," he said.

Over the years Club members have worked on a wide variety of projects for the local communities, such as an annual Christmas parade, quiz nights and local conservation work. A regular sausage sizzle is held in Johnsonville.

Proceeds from past fundraising events have gone to assist many local projects.

The club has recently completed a significant project to raise funds for the Life Flight Trust to help equip their new aircraft.

This was a project that many Lions Clubs have supported resulting in an overall donation from Lions of some \$500,000 to Life Flight Trust.

The Johnsonville Lions Club meets twice a month on a Monday evening and broadly covers the wider northern Wellington suburbs areas.

In addition to support for local youth, various hands on and fundraising projects are held to benefit the local community and wider organisations.

Johnsonville Lions Club currently has 25 members enjoying the satisfaction of serving the needs of Wellington's northern suburbs. People interested in joining can contact the club at Johnsonville@lionsclubs.org.nz.

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# Rotary ShelterBags in Johnsonville

Johnsonville Rotary has joined a project to support people who are sleeping rough.

A Rotarian from Waitara has led a New Zealand wide project for Rotary to purchase and import 1,000 ShelterBags.

The bags are being given to agencies and charities working to provide temporary support to those who are homeless in New Zealand.

Although the ultimate aim is to provide people with long term accommodation, ShelterBags provide lightweight, weather resistant sleeping shelters for people without accommodation.

They are a needed and worthwhile product that makes a tangible difference to the lives of people living absolutely at the margin of society.

Johnsonville Rotary has arranged for 40 bags to go to the

Salvation Army which will use some in Johnsonville and some at their shelter in the city.

Mat Badger, Centre Director for the Salvation Army in Johnsonville, says he is very excited about the value of the ShelterBags to help those they work with.

The ShelterBags will supplement the Salvation Army community free lunch and partnership with OrangeSky to provide showering and laundry facilities once a week.

"If you would like to be involved with similar projects to make our community a better place for everyone, please see our website <https://www.johnsonville.rotary.org.nz/> and get in touch," Johnsonville Rotary says.

"We are a small diverse friendly group who would love to connect with you."



Right: Johnsonville Rotarian Geraldine Needham-Girvan and the Centre Director for the Salvation Army in Johnsonville Mat Badger with the ShelterBags. Photo: Supplied.

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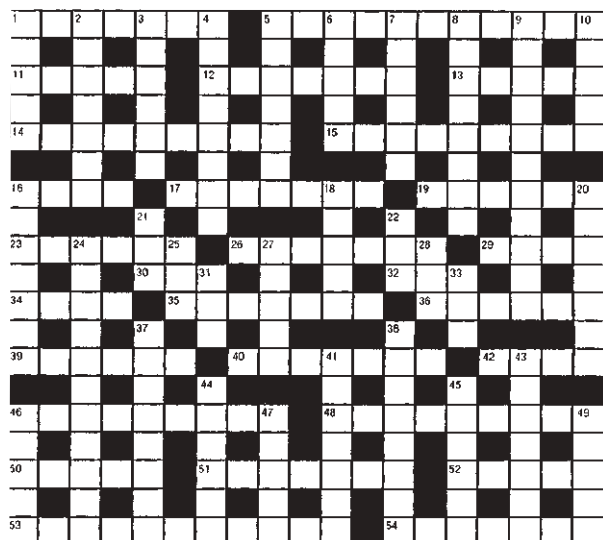
For adults, it's also a great way to relieve stress, learn something new, meet new people, and stay healthy.

GKR Karate promotes Karate for everyone, including children from 5 years old through to men, women and families of all ages. They now have "Yoji" classes for 3-4yr olds.

Apart from the obvious development of self-defence skills, Karate training builds confidence, self-discipline, determination, focus, courtesy, self-control and of course fitness.

GKR Karate's classes are taught by passionate instructors who are committed to teaching and passing on the GKR Karate style and our way of life. Besides their Johnsonville classes they are also now in Lower Hutt at Hutt Waterloo School and Udy Street, Petone.

## CROSSWORD Puzzle



**ACROSS**

1. Showman's covered wagon (7)
5. Chase(quarry) to lair (3,2,6)
11. Dig(5)
12. Most unsightly(7)
13. Taunts (5)
14. Costly(9)
15. Sinners(9)
16. Abound(4)
17. Parade(7)
19. Kiwi golfer, Frank ... (6)
23. Mean(6)
26. Hand operated fire-fighting device, ... pump(7)
29. Cast off(4)
30. Main point(of story) (3)
32. Offer(3)
34. Component(4)
35. Longed for(7)
36. Muse(6)
39. U.S. writer, ... Hemingway(6)
40. Short chopper(7)
42. Sheep enclosure(4)
46. Mirth(9)
48. Schoolmaster(9)
50. Frighten(5)
51. First (7)
52. Boredom(5)
53. Large battleship(11)
54. Error(7)

**DOWN**

1. Obtain by begging (5)
2. Fall back (into illness)(7)
3. Austrian capital(6)
4. Marine(8)
5. Disencumber(7)
6. Sister's daughter(5)
7. Get(6)
8. Lively dance(8)
9. Flawless(11)
10. Writing tables(5)
16. Accolade(7)
18. Tend(5)
20. Commanded(7)
21. Hotel(3)
22. Young of a fox (3)
24. Calculate trigonometrically(11)
25. Unexploded bomb(3)
27. Warble(5)
28. Spot on a dice (3)
31. Turkish governor(3)
33. Put on(clothes) (3)

37. Cherished(8)
38. Suspended swinging weight(8)
41. Designate(7)
43. Transparent fabric of silk(7)
44. Breed of sheep(6)
45. Monster(Fern) (6)
46. Prize(5)
47. Object(5)
49. Expel from native country (5)

**Solution**

Last Week: 2 July 2026



# Kate Sheppard heartbreak for Waterside Karori

By Hamish Wareham

For the second time in the past three years Middleware Waterside Karori's Kate Sheppard Cup run has come to an end at the hands of Wellington Phoenix Academy.

They lost the final game of the quarterfinal stage on Sunday afternoon, 5 July, at Fraser Park.

Sienna Candy opened the scoring for the Phoenix in the fifth minute, a lead they took into the halftime break.

Twenty minutes into the second half Lily Brazendale extended the home side's lead.

Substitute Ruby Barber replaced Brazendale in the 76th minute and made instant impact scoring goals in both the 84th and 88th minutes as last year's runners up booked themselves a semi final and possibly beyond spot for the third year in a row with their 4-0 win.

For Waterside Karori, they return to the women's Central League for the final seven games of the season.

They sit third on the ladder after 10 games with a record of eight wins and two defeats on 24 points, three points off Wellington United in second place and four points off Petone who they host this weekend at Karori Park at 12pm.

The Wharfies men, who sit ninth on the Central League table with eight points from 12 games, also take on Petone who sit seventh on the ladder.

TFS North Wellington are back in action also in round 12 of the men's Central League two competition this weekend, taking on a team also locked on sixteen points.

The will play Lower Hutt at Alex Moore Park with kickoff at 3pm and they will be hoping to overturn a 2-0 defeat they suffered earlier in the season to Lower Hutt.

# Revegetation group leader stepping down

The Kaiwharawhara Revegetation Group co-ordinator Wilbur Dovey has decided to step down from the role.

"Unfortunately, after 21 years, the time seems to have come when I'm going to have to give up leading you all each month," Wilbur said in an email to the group.

"Old age and unfitness is catching up. "I'll keep on providing morning tea until someone takes the job on."

Fellow Ōtari volunteer, Ron Fountain, says that Wilbur, together with his late wife Liz, have been outstanding volunteers at Ōtari-Wilton's Bush.

"For more than 20 years, many of them as a Trust Board member, Wilbur has co-ordinated and led the Kaiwharawhara Revegetation Project.

"He also skilfully managed and guided cruise passenger tours at Ōtari for many years.

"Many of us have benefitted from his knowledge, wisdom and unwavering encouragement as our friend and mentor," Ron says.

"Wilbur has diligently enabled volunteers to chip away at the ecological restoration of the Kaiwharawhara valley over many years," the Ōtari Manager Tim Park says.

"He should be proud of the massive achievement his group has made by planting native trees and keeping on top of weeds throughout the planted areas.



Wilbur Dovey. Photo: Supplied.

"When the big slip happened (in 2023), Wilbur was the first to offer help to remove the rubbish and replant the area.

"This was a big boost to our morale as it seemed like an enormous task at the time.

"Thank you Wilbur for your sustained efforts. You are truly a local legend," Tim says.

# Johnsonville loses nail biter

By Frank Neill

Johnsonville's premier Rugby team narrowly lost a nail biter when Ponoke pipped them 20-17 on 4 July.

Playing on their home ground of Helston Park, Johnsonville would have hoped for a more favourable start to their Hardham VC Memorial Cup campaign, especially after finishing tenth in the Swindale Shield competition, while Ponoke finished 13th.

It was not to be, however.

Both the Johnsonville full backs who featured in the match – Jacob Walmsley and Manihera Gardiner – scored tries.

Number 8 Regan Herbert also dotted down. First five eight Niall Delahunt kicked one conversion.

Nairville Park-based Old Boys University are also Hardham Cup bound.

OBU played Wainuiomata for one of the final two places in the Jubilee Cup – the top level premier competition – on 4 July.

However they were beaten 43-35 in a high scoring match.

OBU would have fancied their chances when they led 21-5 late in the first half.

That lead was thanks to two tries by wing Ben Gordon. Both tries were converted by Malo Manuao.

Wainuiomata, however, overcame the deficit and went on to win the Jubilee Cup slot.

Jack Riley, Mitchell Shields and Folau Vea also scored tries, and Malo converted all

three of them, giving him a 100% conversion kicking rate.

Rugby will not take place next weekend as the Wellington Rugby Referees Association (WRRRA) has withdrawn from refereeing club Rugby.

It has done this as a result of referee abuse taking place.

"As advised last week, we had informed WRFU [Wellington Rugby Football Union] that if further referee abuse was reported this season, we would not appoint referee's to games the following weekend," WRRRA's President and Chairman Ben Van Berkel said in a statement issued on 5 July.

"We had three referee abuse incidents yesterday [4 July], so have advised WRFU that no referees will be appointed to games next weekend (10-12 July).

"The mid-week games that have already been appointed will continue as planned.

"I reiterate that this decision by the Executive Committee was not made lightly, but given the widespread nature of this continued abuse, we believe all reasonable options have been exhausted and need to take this stand to support and protect our members."

The Wellington Rugby Football Union confirmed on 7 July that the Jubilee and Hardham Cup competitions will not take place on the weekend.

Johnsonville was scheduled to play Marist St Pat's on 11 July and OBU was scheduled to start their Hardham Cup campaign by playing Avalon on 11 July.

# Newlands Matariki celebration

The Newlands Community Centre will celebrate Matariki by hosting a Hakari Matariki at the centre on 15 July.

Lunch will be served at 12:30pm.

"If you would like to support this event by contributing some baking we would be most appreciative," the Community Centre says.

"Please let staff know if you can help."

For catering purposes, the Community Centre is asking people to make contact and add their name to the attendance list.

People can contact the Community Centre by phone at (04) 477 3724 or

email at [newslandscommunitycentre@wcc.govt.nz](mailto:newslandscommunitycentre@wcc.govt.nz).

The Community Centre is also celebrating Matariki through creativity and connection with nature.

Creating with Natural Materials is a free school holiday activity that will take place from 2pm to 3pm today, Thursday 9 July.

No booking is needed for this activity, where children and wh nau can create hands-on artworks using natural materials.

Parents and caregivers need to stay with their children.

The Community Centre will be closed on Matariki day, Friday 10 July.



# Huge entries in AIMS Games

Interest in New Zealand's biggest school sporting tournament, the Zespri AIMS Games, has surged again.

The games – which will include competitors from local schools – has attracted 14,506 entries for September's tournament in Tauranga.

The total number of schools competing has jumped from 431 last year to 467 this year, including a record 11 international schools from Australia, the Cook Islands and Fiji.

"While we have 36 more schools than last year, many are sending fewer teams or athletes, which definitely feels like the nature

of the times," the tournament director, Kelly Schischka, says.

"We're really feeling for all those families and communities that are struggling out there but we're also overjoyed they've continued to support us, and give our athletes the chance to have one of the most incredible weeks of their lives."

Tauranga City Council Mayor, Mahé Drysdale said he was thrilled that a record number of competitors will get to enjoy the unique Zespri AIMS Games experience.

"The number of athletes this year is fantastic," he says.



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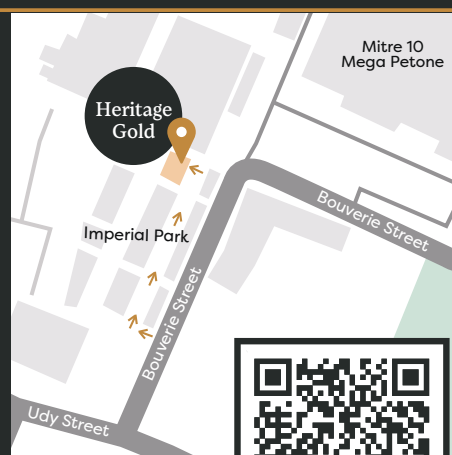
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