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Thursday March 26, 2026

☁ Today 15-18

☁ Friday 16-22

☀ Saturday 15-20

☀ Sunday 15-20

Phone: (04) 587 1660



By Frank Neill

A cell phone tower was set alight in Wadestown in the early hours of Tuesday 24 March.

The cell phone tower on Sefton Street, “opposite Le Maquis Cafe was set alight,” Wharangi/Onslow Western Ward Councillor Diane Calvert told the ‘Independent Herald’ following the fire.
Continued on page 2.

Cr Diane Calvert in front of the cell phone tower that was set alight in the early hours of Tuesday. Photo: supplied.

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Arson attack

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Police investigating cell tower fire

Continued from page 1.

Fire and Emergency New Zealand received a call to the fire at 3:21am and the Thorndon Fire Brigade responded.

The Police also attended and are investigating both this fire and also an earlier one that occurred at this same cell phone tower.

Detective Senior Sergeant Dean Simpson says Police were notified of the cellphone tower being on fire about 3.30am on Tuesday.

"During the course of our enquiries, we've established it is the second fire-related incident at the tower.

"A member of the public reported seeing what appeared to be fire damage to a wooden retaining wall at the base of the tower on Saturday.

"Wellington Police are investigating both incidents and we would like to speak with anyone who may have witnessed suspicious activity around the tower in the past days.

"Cell towers are important infrastructure and we take this offending seriously."

Anyone with information is asked to make a report at 105.police.govt.nz, clicking 'Update report', or by calling 105. Please reference the file number 260324/5619.

Alternatively, information can also be provided anonymously through Crime Stoppers on 0800 555 111.

"Fire and Emergency New Zealand (FENZ) was alerted to a grass fire and cell phone tower fire at Sefton Street in Wadestown at 3.21am on Monday 24 March," a FENZ spokesperson says.

"A power pole on fire had caused the grass beneath it to catch fire. "One firefighting truck from Thorndon responded, extinguished the fire, and had left the scene by 4.34am.

"An investigation into the fire is under way."

It is "very obvious" the fire wasn't accidental, a spokesperson for the Wadestown Residents Association says.

It was "probably lit by someone who is anti 5G.

"I was talking to a couple of neighbours and they said that at about 3am there was a loud bang and shortly afterwards the fire brigade turned up."

As a result of the fire the cell phone tower is basically "totally destroyed," the spokesperson says.

"All the gear on the top of it is completely melted and there is a lot of fibre debris all around it," he said on Tuesday.

"There is a strong smell of burning at the moment."

It would be good if the Police can catch the perpetrator or perpetrators, he adds.

Cr Calvert yesterday received an update from the company that manages the cellphone tower infrastructure.

This update says: "We have



The top of the cell phone tower that was destroyed by fire this week. Photo: Greg Hyland.

secured the site and wrapped it so debris won't come down while we get an engineers structural report. "It is offline and unfortunately will affect coverage on the One NZ network. "We expect it to remain offline for

4/5 weeks to enable new equipment to be ordered and installed. "We will likely have to remove the tower as well. "Unfortunately we don't have a temporary solution due to the topography and site challenges."

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Greg O'Connor MP for Ōhāriu

Since Covid arrived, it seems every few months we all get to learn a bit more about our world: the supply chain issue was one big learning we got, as the flow of goods around the world was affected, and with that, prices of things we buy in New Zealand. It's easy to blame price fluctuations on events like the closure of the Straits of Hormuz; however what is important is to remove these events from the equation and look at how inflation and unemployment were tracking before those shocks; and they were on the way up here in New Zealand way before Trump decided to bomb Iran, despite promises by the Government to bring levels down. The war will become something of a smokescreen for clear failures to address our economic issues, as evidenced by one credit rating agency putting the Government on a downgrade-watch, based on observations made way before the Iran war even started. If our credit rating gets downgraded,

the cost of borrowing money rises. For all the criticism being levelled today, New Zealand's credit rating actually improved under the last Government. Certainly, the war is already impacting the world in many ways, not least of all having all the decisions made by one man on twitter, or Truth Social. Once again, it just shows why we need a strong rules-based system both locally and internationally, and smart well-informed people either making the decisions or advising those who do. Politicians only doing what's popular, as opposed to what is right, is how you get to the problems our current City Council is having to deal with from a lack of investment in infrastructure over the years. I am often approached as an MP by individuals strong on opinions and short on facts with all the answers. Luckily, they don't get to be the most powerful politician in the world. It appears though, that one like them has.

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

Labour



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

New track for Birdwood Reserve

By Frank Neill

KĀKĀ (Karori Kaitiaki), in partnership with Rotary Wellington, is working towards developing a new track through Karori's Birdwood Reserve.

To help raise funds for the project, KĀKĀ held a very successful quiz event at the Karori Tap House on Sunday 15 March.

More than 50 enthusiastic quizzers battled it out.

"The winner was, without doubt, the Birdwood Reserve Track project," KĀKĀ says.

"Thank you all that came and supported this event.

"Imagine this: You have just parked your car in the Zealandia overflow carpark at Appleton Park, corner of Birdwood and Chaytor Streets, or got off the bus here.

"You cross at the traffic lights then immediately walk down a number of steps into Birdwood Reserve.

"You listen to kākā, kereru, tui and other birdsong.

"You will hear the Kaiwharawhara stream as it enters the culvert under Birdwood carpark while exiting the reserve on its way, meandering along various suburbs and Ōtari Wilton Bush, before emptying into the harbour in Thorndon.

"You will walk along the stream towards Zealandia, listening to the babbling waters. You will cross a new bridge over the stream.

"You will enjoy the rushing waters of the stream over the weir and into St. John's Pool.

"Soon, you will walk up out of the Reserve onto Waiapu Road. Just metres away will be Zealandia Visitor Centre."

This is what the new track will be like.

Fundraising for the new track is continuing. People who wish to donate to this environmental project can contact karori.kaitiaki@gmail.com or go to www.birdwoodreserve.com.



Some of the crowd at the quiz night to raise funds for a new track in Birdwood Reserve. Photo: Supplied.



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Greg O'Connor MP for Ōhāriu

Spokesperson for Courts and Veterans' Affairs
Assistant Speaker

Get in touch

My office is open 9am - 4pm
Monday to Friday

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Labour.org.nz/gregocconnor

/GregOhariu



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

inbrief news

Heroes day

The Wellington Region Emergency Management Office (WREMO) and Johnsonville Shopping Centre are holding a Community Heroes Day! (Takatū Together) from 10am to 1pm on Saturday 28 March in the Johnsonville Shopping Centre car park. "This event is all about coming together, celebrating our local heroes, and strengthening our community - Takatū Together," WREMO says.

"Community groups are welcome to have a stall. Interactive activities also welcomed.

"We have a number of community groups, such as Lions, Community Patrol and Kiwi Community Assistance attending, as well as Fire, Police, and Ambulance.

"We would love to have lots of community groups, whether with a stall or activity." There is no cost to community groups for having a stall or activity. People who are interested are asked to contact heather.mccskill@wremo.nz.

Newlands Community Neighbours Day

Residents of Newlands gathered at Ngā Hau e Whā o Paparāangi Marae on Saturday 14 March for the annual Community Neighbours Day, an event focused on bringing people together and strengthening local connections.

Held from 1pm to 3pm at the marae in Ladbrooke Drive, the family-friendly afternoon offered entertainment and activities for all ages, along with free refreshments and a traditional hāngī available for purchase.

The event continues to grow in popularity each year, reflecting the strong community spirit in the area.

Alongside local families, a number of community leaders attended, including the

now local MP Ginny Andersen, Māori Ward Councillor Matthew Rewiti, and Deputy Mayor Ben McNulty, all showing their support for the initiative.

With the electorate boundary changes, Newlands is now in the Hutt South electorate, where Ms Andersen lives and which she represented in the last triennium.

Event organiser Leighsah Rawiri says the day is about creating opportunities for neighbours to meet, connect and build relationships in a welcoming environment.

"It's about bringing people together in a space that feels like home," she says.

A strong community focus was evident, with attendees encouraged to bring non-

perishable food items to support the local foodbank.

The initiative highlights the marae's ongoing role not just as a cultural hub, but as a centre for community care and support.

Ngā Hau e Whā o Paparāangi Marae has long been a cornerstone of the Newlands community, hosting events that foster inclusiveness and connection across diverse groups.

With a mix of culture, hospitality and community spirit, Neighbours Day once again proved to be a highlight on the local calendar - reinforcing the value of coming together and looking out for one another.

The hāngī was delicious too.

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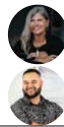
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At the Newlands Community Neighbours Day (from left) Deputy Mayor Ben McNulty, local MP Ginny Andersen and Māori Ward Councillor Matthew Rewiti. Photo: Supplied.

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Exhibition highlights urgent housing need

A powerful new photographic exhibition and graphic novel was unveiled at the Wellington Cathedral of St Paul yesterday, 25 March.

The exhibition, 'Listen Up!' by local documentary photographer David Cook, shines a spotlight on the urgent housing challenges facing older New Zealanders.

Bringing the voices of seniors into one of Wellington's most iconic public spaces is both timely and necessary, David says.

"During a 10-week residency at Te Matariki Tai Ora / The Arts Centre in Christchurch, I worked with Christchurch Methodist Mission (CMM) and other housing providers to meet 24 seniors and kaumātua who generously shared their experiences of housing stress, insecurity, and hope.

"The photographs and graphic novel come directly from their stories."

'Listen Up!' is a central feature of the national launch of CMM Doors to Dignity campaign, which calls for cross-party commitment to sustained government investment in secure, affordable housing for older people.

CMM Executive Director Jill Hawkey says the exhibition amplifies a crisis that can no longer be ignored.

"Older people are facing increasing pressures that can lead to homelessness, housing stress and serious health impacts.

"As our population ages the need for secure, affordable and accessible housing has become urgent."

The Doors to Dignity campaign was launched to push for meaningful national action, Jill says.

"Investing in suitable social housing for



Documentary photographer David Cook. Photo: Supplied.

older people is not only a practical solution, it's a commitment to ensuring that every New Zealander can age with dignity, stability and respect."

Visitors will be invited to take one simple action to help grow momentum for the call for sustained government investment in housing for older people by signing CMM's parliamentary petition at doorstodignity.nz/take-action, Jill says.

The exhibition will be open to the public today and tomorrow from 9am to 5pm, Saturday 28 March from 9 am to 3 pm, Sunday 29 March from noon to 3 pm, Monday 30 March to Tuesday 31 March from 9am to 5 pm, and Wednesday 1 April from 9am to 2pm.



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Buses replacing trains

Buses will replace train services on the Johnsonville, Kāpiti, Hutt Valley and Wairarapa lines during Easter and ANZAC day long weekends.

From Friday 3 to Monday 6 April and Sunday 26 to Monday 27 April, KiwiRail will continue work to strengthen the network and prepare for the new trains coming in 2028-29, which will bring faster and more frequent services to the Wairarapa and Manawatū lines.

Greater Wellington Public Transport Committee Chair Ros Connelly says long weekends remain the best opportunity to complete rail upgrades to minimise the impact on passengers.

"Like all assets, the rail network must have timely maintenance and renewal work done to ensure that our Metlink trains can keep running," Cr Connelly says.

"We do everything we can to avoid rail closures at peak times on busy weekdays, and long weekends allow a significant amount of work to be done in a short time.

KiwiRail's planned network upgrades in-

clude track and rail replacements, preparing sites along the Hutt and Kāpiti lines for new substations, and continuing cabling works to activate upgraded signals and barrier arms on the Wairarapa Line.

"We're making the line ready to carry new trains and more services, shift freight, and play our part in building a high-quality, low carbon transport network for the region," KiwiRail general manager for Wellington Metro Andy Lyon says.

"To get these big jobs done we need uninterrupted time on tracks, so we're making the most of this long weekend with fewer people commuting.

"We know taking trains out of service to work on the lines is disruptive, and we appreciate your patience."

All bus replacing train services will depart from Platform 10 at Wellington Station and from designated bus replacement stops at other locations.

Passengers are encouraged to plan ahead by checking timetables on the Metlink website or app before travelling.

Survey on giving

People in Wellington are being encouraged to take part in a national survey exploring how New Zealanders give and what makes giving easier or harder.

The Giving in Aotearoa New Zealand Survey, led by Community Foundations of Aotearoa New Zealand, aims to build a clearer picture of generosity across the country including here in Wellington.

Nikau Foundation CEO Em Lewis says it's important that voices from the local community are well represented.

"Giving in Wellington takes many forms, from donating and volunteering, to supporting whānau, and backing local causes," Em says.

"We want to build a strong future for our communities. We need to understand what

generosity looks like here in Wellington and what helps it thrive."

The survey looks at giving in all its forms, not just financial donations. It also explores what motivates people to give and what sometimes gets in the way.

Everyone is encouraged to participate, whether they give regularly, occasionally or not at all.

The survey takes 10 minutes, is anonymous and is open to anyone living in Aotearoa, New Zealand.

Participants can also choose to enter a draw to direct a \$1,000 donation to a charity of their choice. People in Wellington can take part on the Community Foundations of Aotearoa New Zealand website. The survey is open until 27 April.



Wellington's Mayor Andrew Little. Photo: Supplied.

Business confidence rising fast

Wellington Mayor Andrew Little has welcomed the results of the latest Wellington business confidence survey, which showed confidence was rising fast in the Capital.

The Wellington Chamber of Commerce has released its latest quarterly survey, covering the final three months of 2025.

The Q4 business confidence score of 43.9% almost tripled from 15% in the Q3 survey, and 55% think the new Mayor will have a positive impact on the local economy.

"It's encouraging to see confidence strengthening across Wellington's business sector," the Mayor says.

"When our local businesses thrive, Wellington City thrives.

"It's been a tough few years and we're not out of the woods yet, but I'm pleased to see confidence returning," Mr Little says.

"The challenge remains to keep building on recent successes, maintain positive momentum and grow the local economy.

"While I'm pleased to see positive sentiment toward my new leadership, this is only the beginning of a long road ahead to lift Wellington's economy to generate growth and high-value jobs for our people."

Mayor Little says confidence among the business sector in the City Council's performance to support local businesses remained low with a sentiment score of

-56.1%, despite improving 13.0 percentage points over the previous quarter.

"Business confidence in the council remains low, and I'm determined to improve this.

"We must strengthen our efforts to improve the outlook for our local business sector. Sixty-two percent of respondents are unsatisfied with council's economic leadership.

"This confirms the challenge ahead of Council to demonstrate it understands the conditions the business sector is operating in, and the need to be appropriately supportive.

"Council and WellingtonNZ continue to work hard to stimulate the local economy through events and tourism, and we're seeing early signs of success to diversify the economy.

"Our creative industries have laid a solid foundation for fintech companies to begin to really take off in Wellington.

"The fact that homegrown HENRY now has its name on Wellington Stadium, and the likes of Sharesies are building a huge portfolio of clients in New Zealand and around the world, shows that our economy is diversifying and is poised for further success," the Mayor says.

The survey is available on the Wellington Chamber of Commerce website, www.wccc.org.nz/news.

Ideas on Council engagement wanted

Wellington City Council is inviting Wellingtonians to share their ideas on how the Council engages with communities, and what it can do to improve.

"This will strengthen how we listen, collaborate, make decisions and deliver on what matters most to our communities," the Council says.

People can fill out a survey on engagement by visiting www.letstalk.wellington.govt.nz/participate-poneke.

More information about the engagement is on that page.

Survey forms and flyers are also available at libraries.

The engagement is open until midnight on 12 April.

The Council is also consulting on a review of noise rules contained in the Wellington District Plan.

The Council is drafting some changes to the noise rules to support local events, manage construction noise, and other small fixes.

"We would like to understand community views on these changes before we formally notify the changes for public submissions, the Council says.

People are asked to provide feedback by 5pm on 10 April.

People can provide feedback by visiting www.letstalk.wellington.govt.nz/noise.

A third area the Council is reviewing is its Development Contributions Policy.

Development Contributions are charges that help the Council to pay for new or upgraded infrastructure, such as roads, water, sewage and community facilities required to support new residential or commercial growth.

The Council is proposing targeted changes to the existing current policy.

More information is available at www.letstalk.wellington.govt.nz/development-contributions-policy, and people can also provide feedback via a link on that page.

Feedback is open until 5pm on 2 April.

NEWS TIPS

Send your tips to herald@wsn.co.nz





APRIL

April brings shorter days but they are often still warm, so this month is ideal for tidying up and nourishing the garden ready for winter crops. While it still fairly mild, watch out for the transition to winter in the air.



PLANTING

- ✓ Tulip bulbs
- ✓ Autumn flowers
- ✓ Potted colour
- ✓ Japanese anemones
- ✓ Camellias
- ✓ Winter veges
- ✓ Regenerate nitrogen in empty beds



MAINTENANCE

- ✓ Compost finished plants
- ✓ Reduce watering of chilli plants
- ✓ Protect veges from caterpillars
- ✓ Guard against frost
- ✓ Divide summer perennials



KITCHEN GARDEN

- ▶ Sow green crops of lupin and mustard in any empty spaces of your vegetable garden for digging into the soil for green manure.
- ▶ Harvest the last of summer crops.
- ▶ Remove all finished vegetable plants from the garden; put them in the compost bin rather than digging in to the soil.
- ▶ Prepare for winter crops by adding compost and sheep pellets to the top layer of soil.
- ▶ Sow seeds: beetroot, broccoli, broad beans, cabbage, carrots, onions, radish, spinach, silverbeet. Transplant to the garden as the weather warms and when they are showing at least two sets of true leaves.
- ▶ Broad beans can be planted directly in to the soil, stagger the sowing for a continuous harvest.
- ▶ Plant seedlings: broccoli, brussels sprouts, cabbage, cauliflower, celery, leeks, lettuce, silverbeet and spinach.
- ▶ Garlic and shallots can be planted in warmer regions.
- ▶ Get a last crop of peas in before winter, in warmer areas you can also get away with snow peas.
- ▶ Dust your cauliflowers, broccoli and brussels sprouts with Derris Dust to protect them from white butterfly and diamond back moth.
- ▶ Protect seedlings from slugs and snails, scatter bait around each plant.



KEY POINTS FOR THIS MONTH

- ▶ Continue to plant winter vegetable crops.
- ▶ Sow seed and plant winter flowering annuals.
- ▶ Get spring flowering bulbs in the ground – early April is the last opportunity to do this. If it gets too late consider tulips as they can be planted as the weather cools.
- ▶ Landscape your garden. April is the perfect time for this as it's not too hot or too cold and you can plant trees and shrubs.
- ▶ Prune existing hedges and plant new ones.
- ▶ Do a final clean-up in the garden before winter sets in.
- ▶ Maintain lawns and sow new ones before the weather gets to cold and wet.

Scan to view the April gardening checklist video

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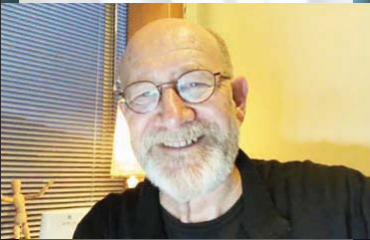
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EASTER CHURCH SERVICES 2026

Hope Centre



Speaker: Ian Wright from Invercargill Christian Centre

Date: Sunday 5 April

Time: 10am

Venue: 12 Centennial Highway, Ngauranga Gorge, Wellington

Easter Sunday falls on April 5, 2026. Since it's just around the corner, many churches in the Wellington region have already finalised their Holy Week schedules.

Here are the times of services and events for some of the congregations and communities across the city.

Pieces of the Story
The Easter Journey:
From Broken Pieces to Beautiful Design

Church Services
Good Friday Service - 10am
Easter Sunday Service - 10am

Easter Walkthrough Experience
Thursday 2nd April: 7pm - 10pm
Friday 3rd April: 12pm - 3pm
Saturday 4th April: 11am - 3pm
Sunday 5th April: 12pm - 3pm
Monday 5th April: 11am - 3pm
Tuesday 6th April: 7pm - 9pm
Wednesday 7th April: 7pm - 9pm
Thursday 8th April: 7pm - 9pm

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MAUNDY THURSDAY
Eucharist with Foot Washing
April 2 at 7:00pm

GOOD FRIDAY
April 3, Family Service at 10:00am
Service of Shadows at 1:30pm

EASTER VIGIL
April 4 at 9:00pm

EASTER DAY
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People moving from petrol to public transport

With petrol prices rising and fuel shortage appearing on the horizon Wellingtonians are already starting to migrate from using private vehicles to public transport.

Initial data shows an increase of train and bus trips in the last two weeks Metlink group manager Samantha Gain says.

"By comparing last week to the same time last year, we know there are 3% more people on board trains and buses which is a strong reversal of the declines we had been recently seeing," she says.

"Historically there has been a correlation between higher oil prices and increased public transport use, so we expect passenger numbers to continue to rise."

Metlink is working with operators to monitor any potential fuel impacts on services in line with its business continuity plan, which sets out how services will operate under varying levels of disruption.

"Our preparations are thorough and extensive, and should this issue escalate, we will take direction from MBIE on a nationally coordinated

approach and keep our passengers informed of any service changes," Ms Gain says.

"From April, we will be launching e-pay, enabling people to pay with their VISA and Mastercard debit and credit cards as well as smart devices, making it easier for people to give public transport a go," she adds.

Greater Wellington chair Cr Daran Ponter has penned a letter alongside Auckland Transport and Environment Canterbury urging the Government to push more

people towards public transport to help keep the economy going, help minimise the impact of rising fuel costs on Kiwis, and help the Government manage its precious fuel supply.

"Simply put, we need to move the most amount of people with the least amount of fuel and public transport is designed to do exactly that," Cr Ponter says.

"With most Metlink trains running on electricity, 25% of the bus fleet being EVs and the Ika Rere electric ferry, our public transport is able to

move more people using less fuel than any other transport option.

"In our letter, we have suggested the Government actively encourage the use of public transport rather than working from home.

"Supporting and encouraging the use of public transport would limit any impact on the economy and productivity, and actively support those workers who are unable to work from home to continue to deliver important services," Cr Ponter says.



Talk to your LOCAL PHARMACY



We know when our children are sick, they go from being active and alert to quiet, grumpy, sleepy, clingy and wanting more cuddles. Often they lose interest in food.

The most common general signs of illness are fever, pain, vomiting, diarrhoea, cough, headache and rash. Fever (body temperature above 37°C) indicates that the body is 'fighting' infection from either bacteria or viruses.

Children's natural defence mechanisms are less well-developed than adults' immune systems, so children are at higher risk of infections.

Fever accompanied by cough, runny or blocked nose and headache can signify the common cold. "Ask us about our Children's Pain & Fever fact card", recommend Self Care pharmacists, "because this has a lot of helpful hints for looking after sick children. Also it indicates what other

signs to look out for in children that indicate more serious illnesses."

Keeping your child comfortable in bed, giving plenty of fluids, and using liquid medicines such as paracetamol or ibuprofen to reduce fever, are best when your child has a cold.

"But" advice from Self Care pharmacists is "use proper medicine-measuring spoons when measuring-out doses of liquid medicines. Don't use kitchen teaspoons because they are not accurate, the volume varies from spoon to spoon, and your child will not receive the correct dose of medicine."

It is important to look out for sore throats in children as it can lead to Rheumatic Fever. This is a serious illness that affects mainly Maori and Pacific children and young people, aged four and above.

Sore throats generally clear up by themselves but "strep" sore throats can lead to rheumatic fever and rheumatic heart disease which can be life threatening. It is important to check up children with sore throats so if they do have a "strep" sore throat they can be treated with antibiotics and stop the illness progressing any further.

If you are unsure then get in touch with your pharmacist, doctor or nurse.

Parents can encourage their children to take simple steps to help prevent the spread of some illnesses.

Children should cover their

mouths and noses when they sneeze and cough, and then wash their hands straight after. Washing hands is also VERY important after going to the toilet, and before eating. They should not share cups and drink bottles, nor spoons and other eating utensils. Tissues are best for blowing noses, and then they should be thrown away immediately after use.

Immunisation is generally one of the most effective ways of protecting children against infections that can cause serious diseases and associated complications (including death).

All forms of immunisation work by causing the body to produce an immune response, in the same way it would if exposed to the disease but without the child suffering all the symptoms and consequences. In the future, when the child comes into contact with the disease, the immune system responds quickly and helps prevent the child developing the disease.

The World Health organisation and the Ministry of Health recommend immunisation for your children. However there may be cases where it is not suitable to immunise and it is important to see your pharmacist or doctor regarding possible risks and/or contraindications.

Children with asthma or allergies, or who are recovering from an illness, such as a common cold, can be immunised.



PROTECTING YOUR CHILD'S HEALTH

Free immunisation, at specific times in a child's life according to the Ministry of Health's immunisation schedule, is available to all children in New Zealand, to protect against a number of diseases – diphtheria, haemophilus influenzae type b (a cause of childhood meningitis), pneumococcal disease, hepatitis B, measles, mumps, rubella, polio, tetanus and whooping cough. Side effects from vaccines can

sometimes occur and include redness and soreness at the injection site. There may also be mild fever.

While these symptoms may be upsetting at the time, the benefit is protection from the disease. More serious reactions to immunisation are very rare. Ask your Self Care pharmacist for a copy of the Children's Illnesses and Children's Pain & Fever fact cards that contains useful information for parents.

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KAPITI



A flavour-filled coastal escape: Two days in Kāpiti for craft beer, coffee and gin lovers

From bean to brew to botanicals, the Kāpiti Coast is serving up a flavour journey that's bold, creative, and distinctly coastal. A new two-day itinerary from Visit Kāpiti invites visitors to slow down, sip well, and explore a region where passionate makers, local ingredients, and laid-back coastal energy come together.

Designed for lovers of craft beer, specialty coffee, and small-batch spirits, the itinerary showcases some of Kāpiti's most exciting producers, all within an easy, scenic stretch of coastline.

Day One: Coffee, craft, and coastal comfort

The journey begins in Paraparaumu at Dark Horse Espresso Bar, a local favourite known for its expertly brewed coffee and strong community following. On weekends, visitors can also catch Montfort's pop-up caravan next door, adding a sweet Dutch twist to the morning ritual.

Just steps away, Duncan's Brewing Co. Taproom offers a completely different flavour experience. Known for pushing boundaries, Duncan's serves up playful, dessert-inspired sours and bold, inventive stouts, making it a must-visit for those looking to try something unexpected.

As the day winds down, visitors retreat to Plum Cottage in Raumati Beach, a charming coastal stay that blends comfort with local character. With thoughtful touches and a relaxed atmosphere, it's the perfect base to soak in the Kāpiti Coast pace.

Day Two: Roasting, smoke, and spirits

Day two begins back on Sheffield Street at The Roastery, where the aroma of freshly roasted beans sets the tone. Visitors can get a hands-on roasting experience, learning the craft and taking home their own roasted beans.

From there, the journey heads north to Waikanae, where Salt & Wood BBQ delivers a hearty lunch experience. Located alongside North End Brewing, this vibrant brewpub pairs slow-smoked meats with European-inspired craft beers, all infused with the spirit of Kāpiti.

The afternoon brings a shift to botanicals at The Bond Store in Paraparaumu. Here, visitors can explore behind the scenes of a working distillery, discovering how award-winning spirits are crafted using locally sourced ingredients. It's a fitting finale to a journey defined by creativity and flavour.

Before heading home, a final stop at WineCraft in Paraparaumu Beach offers the chance to browse a curated selection of boutique wines, craft beers, and unique spirits, with expert guidance to help visitors find the perfect bottle to take a little piece



of Kāpiti with them – a region defined by flavour and creativity

Visitors are encouraged to take their time, explore at their own pace, and discover the stories behind every stop.

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Kiln Services in Nikau Valley have spent over 30 years maintaining and installing kilns. Brent Russell from Kiln Services said "I am seeing resurgence in the craft after

the hit it took from cheap imports". "People now appreciate well-made craft pottery, and schools see the benefits of clay work for pupils.

Amici Ensemble with Simon Brew on saxophone

The Amici Ensemble have played for the Waikanae Music Society every year since 2000 and occasionally before then.

Each time Donald Armstrong's group delights by being different – different ensemble combinations, different musicians, interesting and innovative programmes and popular returns of the great chamber music classics.

In 2026 they add a saxophone to their group to perform an enterprising mix of previously unheard repertoire at Waikanae Memorial Hall, Sunday 19th April, 2.30pm.

Since Adolf Sax invented the saxophone in the 1840s, many composers, including Debussy and Ravel, have been enchanted by the beauty of its tone, blending it with other instruments and influencing more recent composers such as Ellen Taaffe Zwilich and Russell Peterson.


Ellen Taaffe Zwilich is the first female composer to win the Pulitzer Prize for Music. Her expressive quintet explores the sonorities available when saxophone and strings combine, while Russell Peterson's colourful, imaginative work seamlessly blends jazz and classical elements.

Max Richter's peaceful, minimalist "On the Nature of Daylight" and Mozart's glorious final string quartet. The evocative sounds of Piazzolla's Argentina will close this fascinating and entertaining programme.

For ticket enquiries go to www.waikanaemusic.org.nz




Top (L-R): Simon Brew, Donald Armstrong.
Bottom: Nicholas Hancox, Anna van der Zee, Andrew Joyce

 **Waikanae Music Society Inc.**

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with Simon Brew (saxophone)

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Russell Peterson, Max Richter,
Ellen Taaffe Zilich, Mozart
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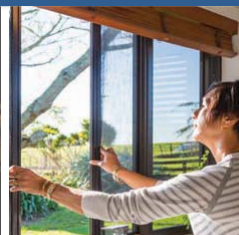
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Nada Bakery's hot cross buns. Photo: Supplied.

Top hot cross bun maker

By Frank Neill

Johnsonville's Nada Bakery has once again proven one of the country's top hot cross bun makers.

Nada Bakery won the Silver Medal in this year's national hot cross bun competition, run by the Baking Industry Association of New Zealand.

Nada Bakery's entry this year was their Traditional Hot Cross bun, the same one they sell in their shop.

The Johnsonville bakery has consistently been at or near the top of the national hot cross bun competition for the last few years.

In fact last year it was New Zealand's supreme award winner.

"There's no better way to celebrate the season than with a fresh Nada bun," Nada Bakery posted on its Facebook page when announcing the Silver Medal win.

"Don't wait until Easter weekend. Come in and grab a pack (or three) today.

"Once you try one, you'll see why everyone says: 'Eat a Nada one!'"

Nada Bakery's Hot Cross Buns are available at their shops in Johnsonville and Tawa, and at Moore Wilsons in Porirua and Wellington. People can also order online www.nadabakery.co.nz.

Fostering safety in Johnsonville business area

By James Hinder*

Fostering safety within its business district continues to be a priority for the Johnsonville Business Group (JBG).

To support the group with the work, the JBG Safety and Vagrancy sub-committee has welcomed two people who bring valuable experience to this work.

Judith Gray of Nada Bakery, a former JBG Executive Committee member, has returned to contribute her expertise.

Judith previously led efforts to establish a liquor ban in the Johnsonville business area.

Through that work it became clear that Wellington City Council requires stronger evidence and data about alcohol-related incidents before a ban can be considered. Also joining the sub-committee is Heather Steevens, a former Police officer and member of the Wellington North Community Patrol.

Heather's involvement will help the group better understand the patrol and safety coverage

already operating within Johnsonville and the northern suburbs.

Over the coming weeks, businesses will receive a safety flyer designed for shop windows or staff areas. The flyer includes a QR code linking directly to Wellington City Council's FIXit reporting system, making it easy for anyone who observes an issue in Johnsonville to report it.

Businesses will also receive a short survey about security services, asking whether they currently engage, or have previously used, security support for staff, customers or general premises coverage. This information will help the Johnsonville Business Improvement District map existing safety and patrol coverage across the precinct. Together, these steps will help strengthen Johnsonville's safety culture and support the evidence gathering required should the community wish to pursue an alcohol ban in the future.

* James Hinder is the JBG's Safety and Vagrancy Lead.

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Wadestown Fair a huge success

By Frank Neill

This year's Wadestown Community Fair chalked up yet another big success, adding to the list of big successes this popular event has recorded over the years.

Held from 11am to 2pm on Saturday 21 March at Philip Myers Park, the fair was well attended by Wadestown locals of all ages.

"We were so pleased to see such a great crowd at the Wadestown Fair," says Wadestown Fair committee member Heidi Loudon.

"There was an excellent array of stalls and the fair was supported by the community and also the hardworking Wadestown School PTA.

"We are looking forward to next year's fair and encourage people who want to host a stall to contact us on wadestownfairnz@gmail.com."

A much loved community event, this year's fair was organised by local residents in partnership with the Wadestown School PTA.

Up until this year the fair was organised by the Wadestown Residents' Association.



A scene from this year's Wadestown Community Fair. Photo: Supplied.

Public Notice



West Park School Pre-enrolment for Terms 3 and 4, 2026

Enrolment at West Park School is now governed by an enrolment scheme, details of which are available from the West Park School office and website.

The West Park School Board has determined that up to 10 places are likely to be available for out of zone students for Terms 3 and 4 of 2026. The exact number of places will depend on the number of applications received from students who live within the school's home zone. The out of zone placement is available for year levels 3 and 5. For students seeking enrolment during Terms 3 and 4, the deadline for receiving applications for out-of-zone places is Friday, 15 May 2026.

Parents of students who live within the home zone and intend enrolling their child at any time during Terms 3 and 4 should notify the school by Friday 12th June 2026 to assist the school to plan appropriately for these Terms.

Pre-enrolment applications can be submitted:

1. Complete online enrolment on our school website

If the number of out of zone applications exceeds the number of places available, students will be selected in a priority order by ballot. If a ballot for out of zone places is required, it will be held on the Friday 15th May 2026. Parents will be informed of the outcome of the ballot within three school days of the ballot being held.

Details relating to the enrolment period are as follows.

Length of enrolment period: from 20 July 2026 - 15 December 2026.

Deadline for receipt of applications: Friday 15 May 2026.

Date of ballot: Friday 15 May 2026

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ANZAC service returning to Makara

The ANZAC Day service which has been held at Makara over the past 15 years will again be held at Makara on 25 April.

The service is to take place at 10am at the intersection of Makara Road and South Makara Road in front of the Makara War Memorial.

Invitations have been extended to the Armed Forces.

An invitation is also extended to anyone who would like to attend, and anyone who wishes will have the opportunity of laying a wreath during the service.

The Reverend Alison Camplin will say the prayer.

Rex Billings, a young Makara resident, will be playing the bag pipes, and the Makara Model School will have students lower-

ing and raising the flag and will also be reading a poem.

The Makara Riding Club will be represented at the service.

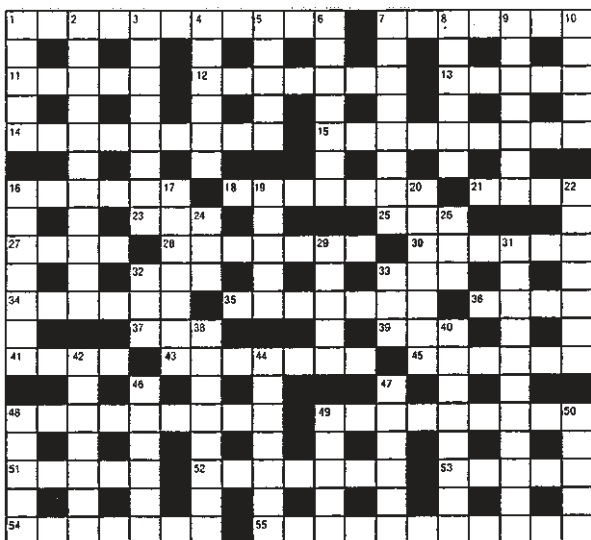
A local couple, Liz and John Dixon, will lay a wreath on behalf of the Makara Community in memory of those men and woman who fought and who gave their lives during conflict.

Peter White, from Makara, will recite the Ode.

Thanks is extended to the Meridian West Wind community fund which has supported the organisation of the service.

The service will be followed by morning tea, put on by the Makara Community, at the Makara Community Hall. Everyone attending the service is welcome to the morning tea.

CROSSWORD Puzzle



ACROSS

- 1. Healing (11)
- 7. Good view; ... point.(7)
- 11. Californian white-oak. (5)
- 12. Beginning. (7)
- 13. Metal tip at end of shoelace. (5)
- 14. Sweet-sounding. (9)
- 15. Forager (9)
- 16. Musical instrument. (6)
- 18. Raving. (7)
- 21. Divisions of land (4)
- 23. Horse(Inf) (3)
- 25. Bird's crest. (3)
- 27. Resound. (4)
- 28. Cheer. (7)
- 30. Ring-throwing game. (4-2)
- 32. Sharp blow. (3)
- 33. Political satirist, ... Scott.(3)
- 34. Account-book. (6)
- 35. Bridged intersection. (7)
- 36. Agriculture minister, ... Falloon (4)
- 37. Stimulating tablet, ... pill. (3)
- 39. Estimated time of arrival (abbr) (3)
- 41. female red deer. (4)
- 43. Reproached sarcastically. (7)
- 45. Not harsh. (6)
- 48. City in England. (9)

- 49. Left-handers(Inf) (9)
- 51. Raise the spirits of. (5)
- 52. Observation post. (4-3)
- 53. The sea. (5)
- 54. Appease. (7)
- 55. Tall buildings. (11)

DOWN

- 1. Loose thread. (5)
- 2. Adorned. (11)
- 3. Rough-haired Scotch terrier. (8)
- 4. U.S. inventor, Thomas ... (6)
- 5. Attempts. (5)
- 6. Deep red. (7)
- 7. Pertaining to farms. (8)
- 8. More tidy. (6)
- 9. Brisk(music) (7)
- 10. Go into.(5)
- 16. Secrecy. (7)
- 17. Durable upholstery fabric. (7)
- 19. Agricultural. (5)
- 20. Accomplishes(Inf) (7)
- 22. Loyal. (7)
- 24. Hiatus. (3)
- 26. British person(sI) (3)
- 29. Small enclosed field. (5)
- 31. Tending to incite. (11)
- 32. Agent(abbr) (3)

- 33. Golf peg. (3)
- 38. Aromatic lozenge. (8)
- 40. Animals with lungs & gills. (8)
- 42. Bliss. (7)
- 44. Tapers. (7)
- 46. Swiss city. (6)
- 47. Artless. (6)
- 48. Pup. (5)
- 49. Ostentatious. (5)
- 50. Oozes. (5)

Solution

Last Week: 19 March 2026

FORESIGHT	ASSESSORS
OUTLASH	SL
RATIO	SMUGGLE
UNTIE	
EOL	TTE
ABIN	
MORRISON	ABOVEBOARD
A	ODE
CRE	EO
E	NILE
ADMIRAL	DROVER
O	PRO
A	N
E	N
ANGLO	MICHAEL
NURSE	
P	I
SPA	LET
POE	D
S	PICOT
INERTIA	SLURS
E	A
G	T
C	S
R	E
A	L
LURE	STELLAR
METE	R
A	S
A	C
CIA	N
ADJUDICATE	SCARGEST
N	O
U	R
T	G
H	I
N	R
CONGA	ENLARGE
SINGE	
E	E
T	E
I	C
E	U
A	SUSPENDED
MAKESHIFT	

Onslow bowler claims five wicket bag

By Frank Neill

The table topping Onslow Cricketers possibly had a slight edge over Taita at stumps on day one of their two day match.

Onslow bowled out Taita for 229, who batted first in the Premier 1 match on Fraser Park's Barry Clarke Oval on 21 March.

They then reached 155 for the loss of five wickets.

Micah Conroy starred with both the ball and the bat.

After claiming a five wicket bag at a cost of just 20 runs, Micah went on to score 45 not out by stumps.

The five other Taita wickets to fall were evenly shared by the Onslow bowlers, with Matthew Scoble, Oscar Jackson, Ryan Tsourgas, Samuel Beardmore and Elliot Seddon claiming one wicket each.

Oscar also batted well, scoring 21, and Matthew was on 15 not out at stumps. Matthew also chalked up a milestone when he walked on the field for his 100th premier match.

Devan Vishvaka scored 28 runs.

Karori conceded first innings points to Hutt District by stumps on day one of their match on 21 March.

Batting first on Karori Park, the home team was bowled out for 285.

Hutt District had reached 304 for the loss of just three wickets when play ended.

Two Karori batsmen made half centuries, with Dimithri Gallage scoring 70 and Yashraj Kalsi scoring 56.

Oscar Wilson took two wickets for 30 runs and Ralph Kirkland took one wicket for 51 runs.

The Johnsonville premier men's team was well on top of the Sri Lankan Sports Club by stumps on day one of their Premier 2 match on 21 March.

Batting first on Alex Moore Park, Johnsonville scored 348 before they were dismissed.

The Sri Lankans had reached 104 for the loss of five wickets by the end of play.

Lewis Jeffreys came within a sniff of a century when he scored 96.

Two other players also passed their half century mark with Samuel Hunter scoring 61 and Andrew Moir 57.

After finishing on 31 not out with the bat, Maximus Petrie went on to bowl outstandingly, taking three wickets at a cost of 50 runs. Sean Wakelin and Connor Lusty took the other two wickets to fall.



Micah Conroy, who featured with both the bat and the ball in Onslow's match against Taita on 21 March. Photo: Supplied.

Regional Council rates rising 9.7%

Greater Wellington Regional Councillors have approved the proposed 2026/27 Annual Plan, with an average regional rates increase of 9.7%.

The proposed average regional rates increase for residential rates (including GST) is \$83.83 (\$1.61 per week), for business rates (excluding GST) is \$695.70 (\$13.38 per week), and rural rates (excluding GST) is \$103.25 (\$1.99 per week) per annum.

Greater Wellington chair Daran Ponter said councillors were mindful of the pressures facing households, whānau and businesses across the region as well as sweeping central government reforms which will limit local government investment in the future.

"We know that many people are feeling stretched, and that's front of mind as we work through the proposed Annual Plan process," Cr Ponter says.

"We're also facing the challenge of maintaining essential services for our communities while the Government proposes major changes to the Resource Management Act and the Civil Defence and Emergency Management Act.

"These reforms would require councils to take on new regulatory responsibilities without any signal of additional funding."

Greater Wellington deputy chair Adrienne Staples said councillors were seeking a careful balance between affordability and maintaining core services and advocated to reduce the average rates increase from 13.3% as outlined in the 2024-34 Long Term Plan to 9.7%.

"Our communities expect us to be prudent with their money.

"Councillors have been clear that we want to see more options for savings and efficiencies, while still protecting the services that support regional economic wellbeing, resilience and quality of life," Cr Staples says.

Greater Wellington Public Transport Committee chair Ros Connelly said public

transport is essential to unlocking economic growth and supporting local businesses, while also playing a vital role in helping people get to work, school and university, and stay connected with their communities.

"Public transport needs to be reliable and affordable for the people who depend on it every day," Cr Connelly says.

"Councillors are closely examining where costs can be reduced or managed better, without losing sight of the need for a public transport system that works for our communities now and into the future."

Savings in environmental services were achieved by slowing some restoration work across the region and delaying flood defence improvements in the Hutt Valley while ensuring that reductions did not undermine long-term environmental outcomes.

Greater Wellington Environment and Climate Committee chair Quentin Duthie said core services, including protecting areas of highest ecological value and maintaining critical flood defences, have been prioritised to ensure long-term outcomes are safeguarded.

"People care deeply about the health of our rivers, harbours and natural spaces and want us to reverse decline and promote improvement," Cr Duthie says.

Proposed environmental changes also included an increase to camping fees to help maintain campground and visitor facilities.

"Over summer my whānau and I enjoyed camping in our regional parks, and it's clear how much people value these spaces.

"Updating camping fees, which haven't changed since 2020, will help us maintain the popular, high quality facilities visitors enjoy, while keeping them affordable and in line with similar campgrounds," Cr Duthie says.

More information is on Greater Wellington's annual plan page.

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